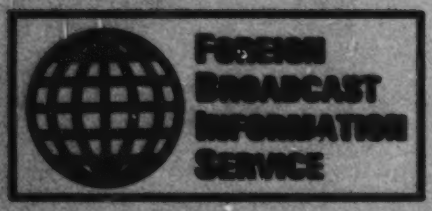

Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-93-205
Tuesday
26 October 1993

Daily Report
East Europe

FBIS-EEU-93-205 *26 October 1993*

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Russian Envoy 'Disappointed' at WEU Position

AU2310154693 Prague CTK in English 2214 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 20 (CTK)—Russian Ambassador to the Czech Republic Alexandr Lebedev said today he was disappointed at Western European Union (WEU) Secretary General Willem van Eekelen calling Russia a country located outside Europe's borders.

Lebedev told CTK that the statement, part of Eekelen's lecture on future European security delivered in Prague today, justified the fears of those political forces in Russia which are convinced that European institutions are trying to push Russia on the periphery of European integration processes.

He said that in spite of the opinions of some European statesmen and his own political opponents in Russia, he was convinced that Russia could play a positive and creative role in the process of European integration.

In reply to a question from Lebedev what role the WEU ascribed to Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union in the European security system, Eekelen said it was in the interest of the European Community, which is now being newly shaped, to have good relations with all great powers.

But he pointed out that the forming of the new European security structure was up to the Europeans themselves.

Germany Cancels Trains Transiting Serbia

94BA0028C Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 1 Oct 93 p 7

[Article by D. Djuric: "Macedonian Railroads Cut Off"]

[Text] Skopje—As of Sunday, the express train on the Skopje-Munich-Skopje line is no longer running on Macedonian railroads because of the sanctions against neighboring Serbia. According to information received from the Skopje Rail Transportation Enterprise, it is a decision of the German Railroads to also cancel other trains from central and West Europe that pass through Serbia. The "Attica," a train that runs between Athens and Munich and passes through Macedonia, and then the "Istanbul Express" between Istanbul and Munich, the "Balkan Express," which connected Sofia and Munich, have experienced the same fate, and the "Meridian" between Istanbul and Berlin has shortened its route at Budapest and does not go to Germany. By decision of the German Railways, because freight trains have ceased to run on Macedonian rail lines because of the sanctions, Macedonia has also been cut off from Europe in rail passenger traffic, and the Skopje Rail Transportation Enterprise faces new problems. That former Yugoslav republic has no alternative rail route, because all its lines go in the north-south direction. To open up another rail corridor in the east-west direction that would link Macedonia to Bulgaria and Albania, more than 100 km of line would have to be built, and for the present this is only in the planning stage.

Zhulali Receives Austrian Defense Minister

AU2310205493 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1830 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The way is being opened up in Tirana to military cooperation between Albania and Austria. Our correspondent reports on the first day of the visit of Werner Fasslabend, Austrian federal minister of national defense, to our country:

The real possibilities for Austrian military assistance to Albania were at the center of the discussions between our minister of defense and his Austrian counterpart, Mr. Fasslabend. This was seen to be closely related to Austria's role as mediator in the establishment of relations between the NATO political-military bloc and the countries of Eastern Europe, as well as their gradual integration into the Atlantic alliance structures.

The discussions centered around the possibility of intensifying the Albanian-Austrian dialogue and military cooperation at all levels. The two ministers, Zhulali and Fasslabend, were unanimous on the common goals of this cooperation. Both Albania and Austria have their place in overall security strategy.

Mr. Fasslabend said that Austria supports the reorganization of the Albanian Army. According to the federal defense minister, this helps to strengthen Albania's security and regional security in the Balkans. This is precisely the context in which the possibility of extending military cooperation in the field of defense in order to preserve peace, security, and stability, was discussed.

The meeting, which took place at the Ministry of Defense, dealt with various specific areas in which Austria's military assistance to Albania can be more useful. The areas of cooperation are expected to be clearly defined in an agreement to be signed on Monday by the two defense ministers.

Both ministers, Zhulali and Fasslabend, also agreed on the contribution to be made by both countries to prevent the extension of the conflict to Kosova, where the situation is considered by both parties to be very explosive.

On the first day of his visit to Albania, Mr. Fasslabend was also received by Pjeter Arbnori, chairman of the Presidency of the People's Assembly. The latter outlined the historic links of friendship between our two countries and peoples, dwelling particularly on the assistance Austria continues to give to our country. Mr. Arbnori also appraised the mission of the federal defense minister of Austria during his first visit to Albania.

Delegation Attends Military Ceremony

AU2510114293 Tirana ATA in English 0901 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Tirana, October 25 (ATA)—The 42nd Infantry Brigade was formed October 24 in Korca which complied with the anniversary of the liberation of the city.

Present were Safet Zhulali, minister of defence and other senior officers, Dr. Werner Fasslaband, Austrian federal minister of defence, and other members of the Austrian delegation visiting Albania.

Minister Zhulali greeted those present on behalf of the general commander of Armed Forces, President Berisha. Mr. Zhulali stressed that the formation of the brigade marks the completion of the reformation of the army, the goal of which is to establish an army of barracks [as received] capable to defend Albania. Mr. Zhulali also emphasized the necessity of modernizing the army, the qualification of servicemen, establishment of cooperation with armies of democratic countries of NATO, Western European Union and all friends of Albania.

Dr. Fasslaband greeted the participants in the ceremony. He said that he was glad to be present in the ceremony and observe military exercises. Austria is Albanians' friend, Mr. Fasslaband said. Then the troops of the 42nd Infantry Brigade marched past.

Full NATO Membership Still Pursued

AU2410143293 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Bulgaria's relations with the NATO member states and the damages our country is suffering as a result of the Yugoembargo were the main topics discussed at today's meeting between President Zhelev and Stephen Oxman, assistant secretary of state of the U.S. State Department, who is visiting our country. Special attention was devoted to the future of trade cooperation between Bulgarian and the United States.

Prime Minister Lyuben Berov declared on the occasion of his meeting with Mr. Oxman that at least three ways of indirectly compensating Bulgaria for the losses suffered as a result of the Yugoembargo exist: Facilitating the access of Bulgarian goods to the European and U.S. market, more foreign investments in Bulgaria, and possible negotiations with creditor banks in our country would be a great help for us, the prime minister is reported saying. [passage omitted]

Mr. Oxman was handed a written message with our country's position on the observance of human rights. Some questions are asked at the same time about the U.S. side's own evaluations and assessments about the state of human rights in our country. The questions are evoked by the remark of the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador Montgomery about his intention of working for an amendment of the Bulgarian Constitution. [passage omitted].

Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs reacted to the U.S. proposal, known as partnership for peace, which proposes the signing of bilateral cooperation treaties between the countries of Central and Europe and NATO. Our Foreign Ministry accepts the idea as an expression of the willingness to adopt specific actions likely to respond to the wish of the Central and East European countries for integration with the North Atlantic security structures.

The provisional statement of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, adds that Bulgaria further intends to pursue its sovereign line of applying for full NATO membership.

'Informal' Position on Montgomery Case Presented

AU2410150293 Sofia BTA in English 2114 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Sofia, October 23 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided BTA with the text of an informal document which Foreign Minister Stanislav Daskalov handed over to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Steven Oxman. The document reads as follows:

Mr. Montgomery expressed the opinion that some provisions in the Bulgarian Constitution were imperfect. Expressing critical opinions on any country's Constitution is not unusual. Who can say that there is a perfect Constitution in this world?

However, the way in which the statement was made and Mr. Montgomery's words that he would work on the change of the Bulgarian Constitution are quite unusual in the diplomatic practice and cast doubt on the speaker's attitude to Bulgaria's sovereignty.

Mr. Montgomery said that the Constitution outlawed certain parties formed on ethnicity or religious basis, which was one of the things he would work on.

According to the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, this is not a positive approach to the historical realities in Bulgaria, given the troubled situation in the Balkans, this gives rise to certain questions.

Is this the official policy of the U.S. Administration? Or it is the position of certain circles in the United States? Or maybe it is the position of some individual persons only?

Bulgaria attaches primary importance to the strict respect of man's human rights and basic freedoms both in its foreign and its internal policies, it considers the problem of human rights to be the major element of a contemporary democratic society.

Being a party to all basic international agreements on human rights, Bulgaria undertook to adhere to the universally recognized human rights standards, recognizing the respective mechanism controlling their application as well.

The American side was told that Bulgaria is a state committed to the rule of law in which the respect of Bulgarian citizens' rights must and is guaranteed on the basis of the principle of equality before the law and non-discrimination, and not on the basis of granting special rights. At the same time the right of the people to choose whether they belong or do not belong to ethnic, religious and other groups is respected in Bulgaria.

Concerning the population of Pirin Macedonia, those people have already expressed and proved their Bulgarian ethnic awareness. The Bulgarian Government is respectful of this fact and expects the same approach on the part of other states. It confirms its determination to protect the rights of its citizens in Pirin Macedonia against any attempts at infringement on them from the outside.

Yordanov Negatively Assesses Cabinet

AU2410190893 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] On 24 October at Slivek Village near Lovech a conference of the Radical Democratic Party [RDP] National Party Council took place.

The participants analyzed the political situation in the country and the party's position. A program on developing a national political policy and actively participating in international political life was proposed at the conference. An appeal to the members and supporters of the Union of Democratic Forces was adopted with an absolute majority. Aleksandur Yordanov, party leader and National Assembly chairman, assesses this document.

[Begin Yordanov recording] In anything related to the government that currently leads Bulgaria, the RDP National Party Council decisively opposes its political and social policy. It is our assessment that this government could not resolve a single social problem. It delayed the process of returning property and land to the people, increased the tax burden of every Bulgarian citizen and family, could not cope with the crime problem, exacerbated the financial crisis, deprived the Bulgarian citizens of many social benefits, and was able to fulfill hardly any of its program promises.

We found out that the government's responsibility indeed is the responsibility of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], because this is the party that supports this government. Without the BSP's support the government simply cannot exist.

Our analysis shows that the president's responsibility is exceptionally grave. The president fulfilled practically none of the preelection promises incorporated in his election campaign.

The RDP National Party Council assesses the work of the National Assembly as inefficient. We think that the basic reasons must be sought in the behavior of the parliamentary majority. The solution to this grave situation must not be sought in regrouping the political forces in the parliament, but in organizing new, early, parliamentary elections. [end recording]

SDS Plans New No-Confidence Vote Against Cabinet

AU2510204893 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Aleksandur Karadimov, member of parliament from the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] Parliamentary Group, briefed correspondents in Plovdiv on the group's intention of discussing arguments for a no-confidence vote against the Lyuben Berov cabinet tomorrow.

The reason for the vote would be the interference of the executive power with the prerogatives of the legal organs.

According to Mr. Karadimov, Prime Minister Berov had launched personal attacks against the activities of the chief public prosecutor and the Supreme Court chairman, insisting on their replacement.

The motion on the no-confidence vote is expected to be submitted to parliament by the end of the week, Aleksandur Karadimov added.

Christian Republican Party Leader Leaves BSP Coalition

AU2210191493 Sofia 24 CHASA in Bulgarian 16 Oct 93 p 10

[Interview with Konstantin Adzharov, leader of the Christian Republican Party, former member of the Parliamentary Alliance for Social Democracy, by Miroslava Badzheva; place and date not given: "K. Adzharov: I Believed in the Bulgarian Socialist Party, But It Will Never Change"]

[Excerpts] [Badzheva] Mr. Adzharov, was it Emil Buchkov [member of the Rights and Freedoms Movement, who recently changed over to the Union of Democratic Forces] who gave you the courage to apply to join the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] Parliamentary Group?

[Adzharov] No, our party was the first to leave the Bulgarian Socialist Party's [BSP] parliamentary alliance. I remained in parliament for nine months as an independent deputy, much longer than Emil Buchkov, as a matter of fact. Things are different in his case. He is a distinguished lawyer and, as far as I know, his theory is that he would like to contribute to drafting democratic legislation.

[Badzheva] Why did you write your letter to Stefan Savov at this point precisely?

[Adzharov] Because, the danger of [communist] restoration is emerging today. The Christian Republican Party has decided to do everything in its power to prevent the restoration of communism. We are using all our resources inside and outside parliament to pursue this goal.

[Badzheva] Who invited you to join the SDS Group?

[Adzharov] Many members of parliament did so, such as Stefan Savov, Ivan Kostov, and other SDS leaders. However, I had to consult the people from the Christian Democratic Party in the first place, and it was the party that decided what should be done after I had been invited. Anyway, the SDS Parliamentary Group is expected to vote on all these issues, perhaps next week.

I did not wish to join the fourth parliamentary group, the New Democracy Alliance, because I have never trusted them. Now they are trying to put together a majority. Naturally, they do not always vote with the BSP, but that is their own business.

The reason I chose the SDS is simple. We cannot talk about the unification of all democratic forces against recommunization, and say that it should happen without the SDS. This would be totally unrealistic. [passage omitted]

[Badzheva] Nevertheless, why did you join the BSP coalition? Was it because it guaranteed your parliamentary seat?

[Adzharov] We believed that the BSP would become a parliamentary party. It voted for a constitution, which regardless of its shortcomings, recognizes the inviolability of private property. Hence, we decided that there is nothing wrong with an alliance with the BSP, in the hope that it would become a party like all the others. It turned out, however, that the BSP is incapable of behaving like a normal political party, on account of its heavy legacy from the past. The BSP cannot form any coalitions with anyone, even not with its own factions. This is what prompted us to leave.

We did not join a coalition with the BSP, but merely entered an election alliance. Each party participated with its own program and I was elected on the basis of the Christian Republican Party's program, which stipulates that we support only private farming, no [communist-style] labor cooperatives, no cooperatives at all. We had total freedom of action within the Alliance for Social Democracy. On numerous occasions, while voting on various bills, I declared that our views differed from those of the BSP. However, the moment came when we realized that such a coalition was meaningless, and that the BSP remains the same old party and is eroding itself from the inside.

[Badzheva] What was the specific occasion that prompted you to leave the Alliance 10 months ago?

[Adzharov] The Socialists' attempt to deceive the people about their ability to form a government was the straw that broke the camel's back, especially after they proposed Petur Boyadzhiev for the post of prime minister, in spite of his dual citizenship. They tried to shun responsibility, but did not admit it, and deliberately nominated an unsuitable character, knowing perfectly well that he was not eligible.

All the decisions were made by the Supreme Party Council and there was no question of consulting the coalition.

[Badzheva] Are you already considering a coalition of the Christian Republican Party with the SDS?

[Adzharov] We shall seek close relations and alliance with the SDS, but this no longer depends solely on our will. We intend to proceed with our application to join the SDS, but we realize that the SDS is slow in dealing with such procedures. We cannot say when it should happen, but we hope to succeed. [passage omitted]

[Badzheva] Does it mean that you are relying on running in the next elections on a joint ticket with the SDS?

[Adzharov] Yes, we shall no longer run for elections on our own. We have already tried and found out that it does not work. There is not even one normal political party in Bulgaria likely to pass the 4-percent barrier. The BSP could do it, but it is not a normal party, as it is burdened by the legacy of communism. The DPS would be also capable of this, but it is a specific party. The SDS is not a party, it is a coalition. This is the truth. We saw what happened to the various Bulgarian National Agrarian Union [BZNS] factions, and to the large Social Democratic Party at the last elections.

Commentary on Need To Appoint Moscow Ambassador

AU2510210193 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 20 Oct 93 p 6

[Commentary by Geno Ivanov: "Russia Is Not Nubia"]

[Text] Someone in Bulgaria—whether in the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], or all of them together—wants to completely destroy Bulgarian-Russian relations, which have long been free of any ideological prejudices.

For unknown reasons, in the last two years, Bulgaria has not had an ambassador in Moscow, as though Russia was less important than Nubia. Sometimes it is that party that does not like the designated ambassador (whose name is never officially stated, but rather hinted at by the newspapers) and sometimes, it is the other party.

In the final analysis, no one—including our citizens, merchants, and producers—gains anything from this.

This situation must not continue any longer. Bulgaria, which more than any other former socialist country was economically related to the former USSR, cannot afford a further deterioration in relations with Russia because of petty interparty scuffles.

The president must sign a decree on appointing an ambassador to Moscow because the absence of an ambassador there prevents our diplomats from doing their job. They constantly justify their lethargy with the absence of an ambassador.

The role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs remains unclear. So far, it has not proposed a candidate for the post of ambassador to Moscow. What are the minister and his deputies thinking about?

Bulgaria's higher institutions accept a U.S. citizen who openly interfered in the country's internal affairs as the new U.S. ambassador. On the other hand, for a long period of time, they appear to be unable to find a good professional who could head our country's embassy in the capital of a superpower. Is this an accident?

Havel Urges Closer Border Relations With Poland

LD2210223693 Prague CTK in English 2203 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 22 (CTK)—Czech President Vaclav Havel spoke with Polish counterpart Lech Walesa about a plan on a free-trade zone and the small border contact, he told journalists after his return from Poland today.

We were assured that the Polish Government would hand over to the Czech Government a proposal of a new agreement on the small border contact, Havel said.

The Czech-polish agreement should follow the same pattern as the one between Poland and Germany, Havel announced.

According to the agreement, citizens may cross the border only with their identity cards, Havel said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin Visits Republic

Supports Czech Membership in NATO

LD2510191893 Prague CTK in English 1709 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 25 (CTK)—Turkey places great importance on the expansion of cooperation with the Czech Republic in the economic, political, military and cultural spheres and supports its efforts to become integrated into European structures, including NATO, Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said today.

Cetin, who is on an official visit to the Czech Republic at the invitation of Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec, told journalists that bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and Turkey are problem-free and that Turkey possesses the political will to expand them. Turkey does not believe that the European structures should be an exclusive club for the privileged, Cetin said, adding that the Czech Republic has every right to participate in resolving European affairs. Close cooperation in all matters concerning the European continent is the best guarantee for strengthening the young democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, he said.

Zieleniec said that his talks with Cetin had centred on cooperation in the fight against international terrorism and drug smuggling, possibilities of balancing mutual trade, and preparation of a number of economic agreements on, among other things, protecting investments and on eliminating double taxation. The talks also focused on evaluating the situations in several problem areas such as Nagorno-Karabakh and the former Yugoslavia.

Cetin said that the conclusion of an agreement on free trade between the Czech Republic and Turkey was being considered even before the Czech Republic becomes a member of the European Community. He also said that he had officially invited Zieleniec on a visit to Turkey.

Meets With Havel

LD2510195193 Prague CTK in English 1808 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 25 (CTK)—NATO should differentiate its relationship towards the post-communist countries, Czech President Vaclav havel said today at a meeting with visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

Havel believes that at its summit in January, NATO should define its relationship towards the so-called new democracies and differentiate its interest towards these countries, presidential spokesman Ladislav Spacek told journalists after Havel's meeting with Cetin. He said that Cetin had voiced his consent with Havel's article, published in the dailies "NEW YORK TIMES" and "INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE" last week, in which Havel stressed that NATO was currently in a new position and that it would play a different role in the future.

The two politicians discussed the situation in Russia and Bosnia. cetin spoke in favour of aid to Russia and President Yeltsin. On behalf of his country he voiced concern over the continued conflict in Bosnia. Havel assured Cetin that the Czech Republic would participate in every way possible in the peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Cetin praised the current political and economic situation in the Czech Republic and pointed out the good mutual relations between the Czech republic and Turkey, Spacek said.

Cetin also invited Havel to visit Turkey, which Havel accepted with pleasure.

Discusses Cooperation With Klaus

LD2510203393 Prague CTK in English 1922 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 25 (CTK)—Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, at their short meeting here today, described bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and Turkey as traditionally very good.

Klaus told journalists after the meeting that the intention to immediately empower the two countries' relevant authorities to work on the creation of a free trade zone between the Czech Republic and Turkey had been stated during the meeting. I have promised to come to Turkey to sign this agreement, Klaus said.

He said the expansion of mutual trade has also been discussed during the talks as well as the possibility of the Turkish Army purchasing Czech training planes.

Cetin told journalists that the Czech Republic and Turkey should continue to develop their relations and

should give them a new concrete form. He said Czech-Turkish trade relations were on a good level and that it was necessary to develop mutual relations also in other spheres.

On the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, NATO, Cetin said its current structure could not remain unchanged any longer. It is necessary to define what the alliance will be in the future and what form it will have, Cetin stressed. He said eastern and central European countries could not make light of the question of their security.

Cetin arrived for a two-day official visit to the Czech Republic today. Earlier in the day he met with Czech President Vaclav Havel and Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec.

Havel Views German Compensation Issues

LD2410172793 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1315 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Regular Sunday interview with President Vaclav Havel by station editor Robert Tamchyna: "Conversations at Lany"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Tamchyna] Although in the previous editions of Conversations at Lany you told our listeners about your visit to Chancellor Kohl, you still mentioned the Sudeten German issue a minute ago. This is a very sensitive issue, and I am not at all surprised that you want to return to it again.

[Havel] As the situation stands now, from the viewpoint of international and German law, we do not have a legal right to a standard compensation. Nevertheless, we are one of the few countries that have not been compensated and that is why we are pressing for it.

With regard to the legal situation, the Germans are able to make only a certain gesture, which while aiming into the future would simultaneously aim at attaining certain understanding and conciliation, thus indirectly reflecting the past.

It was the German side itself which raised the idea of making such a gesture. Afterwards we held many talks on this subject. Right from the beginning we understood that we would use our own funds to pay appropriate compensation to the victims [of Nazism], and that the amount we have paid out would be compensated for by the German gesture. It appears now that the possibility of Germany making this gesture is being somewhat put off for various complex internal political reasons, although it has not been turned down.

But time is running short. Those entitled to compensation are old and they could miss the train. That is why the prime minister, the foreign minister, and I considered that, as an alternative, we would pay the compensation in lieu of ourselves and later, when this gesture actually materializes, the sum we have paid out will be compensated for. [Foreign] Minister Zieleniec mentioned this, and I indicated to Chancellor Kohl that this could be an option.

There is one more issue I would like to add to the above. The Landesmannschaft Speaker Mr. Neubauer responded to the whole issue of compensation by saying that although he recognizes that such a gesture would be appropriate, this gesture could be considered only if the Germans are compensated at the same time for certain losses relating to their expulsion. From the viewpoint of our legal code and from the viewpoint of international law, they are not legally entitled to any compensation.

At one time I voiced my view on the expulsion. This view was based on ethics and history. It was quite an accommodating and courageous gesture for its time. It seems to me—and that's what I also told Chancellor Kohl—that it is the Federal Republic's turn now. Everyone in this country knows that the war took place before the explusion and that is why we feel that a goodwill and conciliatory gesture, a humanitarian gesture is what we are entitled to ask for now.

As far as linking the Sudeten German issue with Germany's compensation [for victims of Nazism] is concerned, I would like to say that the German side would like to see us engaged in a dialogue with all the groups and strata of Germans, with various groupings, communities etc. Chancellor Kohl has repeated once again that what matters is a dialogue led at different levels, from which in his view nobody should be excluded. This is something we can do in different ways, it is something what can improve the climate of our relations.

However, we decisively reject this or other political actions as the condition for the German gesture. Chancellor Kohl has never said that talks with this or that German group, or specifically with the Sudeten Germans, are a condition for anything else. He has just stressed that such a dialogue would be good, that this would contribute toward improving the atmosphere. [passage omitted]

Zieliniec Urges 'Clear Perspective' From West

AU2510144793 Prague CTK in English 1345 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 21 (CTK)— Central European countries need a clear perspective as far as their integration into Western European institutions is concerned, Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec said today.

Speaking at a news conference following his meeting with Western European Union (WEU) Secretary General Willem van Eekelen, Zieleniec said the lack of such a perspective would lead to a situation in which strength of the past in some countries would produce arguments about a deliberate preservation of the divided Europe by Western European countries.

The mechanism of the Czech Republic's integration into Western security institutions is a key problem, Zieleniec stressed.

It is important that Western Europe realize that revolution in Central and Eastern Europe is far from over and that the behavior of these countries on this issue is part of these developments. It is not a question of ensuring immediate security but rather the declaration of the Western countries' willingness to overcome the division of Europe together with us, Zieleniec said.

Eekelen told journalists that the WEU was aware of the fact that the orientation of Western European security awareness towards the East makes the Czech Republic a country of fundamental significance. Eekelen reiterated, however, one of the major ideas of his Wednesday lecture at the Czech Foreign Ministry that cooperation between countries of Central and Eastern Europe and mutual coordination of their steps aimed to approach European institutions would help Brussels speed up the process of their admittance into the European Community.

Eekelen told CTK after his lecture on Wednesday that whatever is agreed with one of the potential applicants on its membership in European structures could be understood as a precedence in the relationship towards the others.

Prague is the most beautiful European capital I know, Eekelen said today, adding that he realized especially today that Europe seeks to find new ideas and new view on its future.

The London-based WEU is an intergovernmental European military and political organization coordinating the military policy of its member states. It was established in 1955 by expanding the initial Brussels Treaty (1948) with military coalition between Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Italy and Germany have also become members, and the membership of Portugal and Spain has not yet been ratified by the parliaments of these countries.

Dlouhy Assesses Economic Performance

AU2510143593 Prague CTK in English 2158 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Jihlava, south Moravia, Oct 21 (CTK)—Czech Minister of Trade and Industry Vladimir Dlouhy today called the economic situation in the Czech Republic unequivocally positive compared to the troubles experienced in other former communist bloc countries.

The minister was speaking at an extraordinary general meeting held by the Union of Industry.

In his opening remarks on the union's two-and-a-half-year development since its general meeting in Zlin, south Moravia, he said the Czech gross domestic product (GDP) had plunged 14.2 percent in 1991, and 7.1 percent in 1992.

Industry had been especially hard hit in 1991, with a drop in production equalling 24.6 percent. This improved in 1992 with a decline of 13.7 percent. Fourth quarter results in 1992 even indicated positive growth. In the first quarter of this year, GDP dropped again by 2.2 percent but rose a little over one percent in the second quarter.

Inflation was totally under control, Dlouhy said. However, the government considered September's increase of 1.4 percent to be disturbing.

Employment continued to be very low, ending at 2.6 percent in 1992 and reaching 3.2 percent this September. A large number of jobs also remained unoccupied, he said.

The balanced state budget and public finances played a fundamental role in the country's macrostabilization, Dlouhy confirmed. This included the introduction of tax reforms at the beginning of this year, which led to a surplus in the state budget of 5.6 billion crowns (about $190 million) this July.

Basic changes had occurred in Czech foreign trade, one of the principal achievements being the finding of substitute markets for Czech exports after the disintegration of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

Thanks to the agreement on Association to the European Community, the Czech Republic also succeeded in penetrating EC markets while the share of Czech exports to EC countries amounted to only 31.4 percent in 1990, in 1992 it was already 52.8 percent. The former Czechoslovakia signed the association agreement in December 1991. The independent Czech Republic signed its association agreement on October 4.

A similar development was also clear in relation to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), United States and other advanced countries, Dlouhy said, adding that in spite of a certain drop, Czech exports were maintaining their position in developing countries.

The positive development continued in 1993, with the trade balance in the first eight months of the year reaching $0.19 billion. A surprising growth of exports had been experienced in the last few years, Dlouhy declared.

He informed the meeting's participants that the state current account was and continued to be in the black ($378 million in July 1993). The capital account was reinforced by the influx of foreign investments (approximately $2 billion from the beginning of 1990 to mid-1993).

All this was leading to higher foreign currency reserves, whose volume at the Czech National Bank and other banks was in September 1993 worth $3.1 billion. Dlouhy remarked that foreign debts were at a very acceptable level and remained under control.

The results of the privatization process in the past two years cannot be evaluated other than positively, Dlouhy said.

Since August 1991, 2,273 companies have been privatized, with an overall value of approximately 580 to 600 billion crowns, he said. The second wave of privatization is to comprise another 770 companies with property worth about 220 billion crowns. To this figure there should be added 31 billion crowns worth of property from small privatization (concerning shops, small businesses, and services) and millions of crowns worth of restituted property, he added.

Dlouhy said he believed wage development in the Czech Republic had been on the border of acceptability in the last two years. A comparison of wage growth with the development of labor productivity showed a latent pressure which would accelerate inflation.

He advised the Association of Industry [title as published] to pay attention to the decrease in competitiveness of Czech products on world markets.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade was considering inciting a certain number of bankruptcies in cooperation with the banking sector, Dlouhy said.

The government's tax policy would be of fundamental importance for the country's entrepreneurial climate, he said. The draft state budget for 1994 contained a number of adjustments aimed at the further gradual lowering of the tax quota and the reduction of the direct tax burden.

The government was prepared to take further steps to revive domestic demand, especially through the development of infrastructure. This support should be made either through direct financing from the state budget or by granting budget guarantees to projects of national importance. Housing policy would aim to support construction, Dlouhy said.

He voiced dissatisfaction with the advance of privatization in the principal Czech engineering companies, saying he believed their material and financial restructuring process was proceeding slowly. Foreign partners considered holding relations, for instance in CKD, as a disadvantage which reduced the clarity of the property and financial arrangements, Dlouhy said.

Bankruptcies and a short-term decline in individual areas and branches would be part of the reform process, and could be accompanied by social tension locally, Dlouhy said at the close of his speech. The advancement of the boom in the European and world economies would play an important role, but in this respect the short-term outlook was somewhat pessimistic, Dlouhy concluded.

SDL Will Not Participate in 28 Oct Celebrations

AU2510144293 Prague CTK in English 1321 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 22 (CTK)—The disgraceful tradition of ritualizing important days in the Czech Republic is continuing, said Party of the Democratic Left (SDL) National Committee member Zdenek Masopust, adding that his party would not participate in the October 28 holiday celebrations.

Masopust said that in light of the events of the last year i.e. the breakup of the Czechoslovak federation, the SDL considered celebrating the October 28 holiday, the anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia, to border on cynicism.

SDL Chairman Josef Mecl told journalists today that the approach of President Vaclav Havel, the Prague City Council, Association for the Republic-Republican Party of Czechoslovakia (SPR-RSC) Chairman Miroslav Sladek and other institutions towards this holiday bears witness to the fact that the state administration is fragile and has let itself be thrown off balance by such foolishness.

On Thursday, October 28 at 9:00 AM, Havel is to lay a wreath at Wenceslas Square, accompanied by Prague Mayor Jan Koukal. An SPR-RSC demonstration is also scheduled for the same place Thursday morning.

Regarding discussions on the possible admittance of the Czech Republic into NATO, Mecl said that the SDL would not compete with other parties in making declarations as to whether this should happen yesterday, today or tomorrow. The NATO Command, he said, is considering the admittance of the Czech Republic and the other former Warsaw Pact countries more soberly than are Czech politicians. Mecl also said he considered the view that the Czech Republic does not need any defense alliance to be dubious.

HZDS, SNS Leaderships Approve Agreement

LD2310181993 Prague CTK in English 1618 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Bratislava Oct 23 (CTK)—The Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) leadership and the Slovak National Party (SNS) Central Council today approved an agreement on the government coalition signed Tuesday by the parties' chairmen, Vladimir Meciar and Ludovit Cernak, respectively.

The new coalition would now have 80 votes in the 150-seat parliament, which is an absolute majority, but not the qualified two-thirds majority necessary for the passage of constitutional laws.

The parties' leaderships are now discussing the composition of the coalition government at separate meetings. After that the HZDS and SNS leaders will meet to wind up discussion on the matter. Results are to be announced at a press conference after the joint session.

Since the spring, Meciar's government has been composed exclusively of HZDS members. Until March, when he left the coalition, Cernak was the single non-HZDS minister in the government, which emerged from the June 1992 elections. He was in charge of economy.

Though Meciar and Cernak can hardly be considered political friends, the two parties' coalition should strengthen stability on the domestic scene and avert an immediate threat of parliamentary elections being called early, as has recently been the subject of much speculation.

The HZDS-SNS coalition agreement has come out as a result of talks running for many months, and it is generally understood as a marriage of convenience.

The HZDS has 66 out of a total of 150 seats in the Slovak parliament, the SNS has 14 seats. The opposition is constituted by the Democratic Left Party (SDL) with 28 seats, the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) with 18 seats and the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement (MKDH)-Egyutteles with 14 seats.

The opposition Club of Independent Deputies has eight members, who originally were elected for the HZDS but left after former HZDS Deputy Chairman Milan Knazko's dismissal from the HZDS ranks.

Two deputies present themselves as independent, one being elected for the SDL and the other for the SNS.

Opposition Blamed for Negative U.S. Report

AU2510120293 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 20 Oct 93 p 4

[Article by Minister of Culture Dusan Slobodnik: "Fabrications at the Expense of Slovakia; Who Inspired the U.S. Congressmen"]

[Text] In Friday's [15 October] issue of REPUBLIKA, fellow writer Roman Kalisky pointed to the tendentious way in which the **"Human Rights and Democratization in Slovakia"** report was prepared. If I were to supplement his arguments in any way (concerning aspects to which he drew attention), I would only add a small observation regarding the passage on the Constitution. I have at my disposal the English text. On page 8 it only emphasizes the fact that **"the Hungarian opposition to the Constitution focuses on the text of the preamble, which states: 'We, the Slovak nation...adopt through our representatives the following Constitution....'"** Yet the American authors of the text do not quote the subsequent text of the preamble, in which it is stated: **"...together with members of national minorities and ethnic groups living on the territory of the Slovak Republic..., that is, we, citizens of the Slovak Republic (...)."** Is this a coincidence? Hardly. Or, to give another example, the text of the report reads (page 8): **"This text was approved despite protests by Hungarian members of parliament, who offered an alternative text: 'We, citizens of Slovakia, adopt the following Constitution....'"** So much for the text of the report. Without taking the trouble to quote any further, the authors disregarded additional important facts contained in the preamble.

Erika B. Schlager and the Public Against Violence Movement

This very "omission" testifies to some facts that have become known in the meantime and about which National Council of the Slovak Republic [NRSR] Chairman Ivan Gasparovic spoke during his stay in the United States, when he mentioned that the authors of the report had not been in Slovakia and that the spiritus agens of the report, a certain Erika B. Schlager, is spiritually tied to representatives of the former Public Against Violence [VPN] movement.

The text of the report unequivocally confirms that the information for it had been supplied chiefly by protagonists of the former VPN and by some politicians from the Coexistence movement and the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement [MKDH].

I will attempt to document these assertions in greater detail. However, even before doing so I can say that the forces that have found themselves at the political periphery after the June 1992 elections and protagonists of Coexistence and the MKDH who want to disrupt Slovakia's stability (which does not apply to all of them) are those components of Slovak society whose common interest is to destabilize Slovak statehood and to create the impression that Slovakia is non-democratic, post-totalitarian, post-fascist, and nationalistic.

These claims are at variance with the truth. Therefore, even forces of the ex-VPN no longer dare assert that **present-day Slovakia** is non-democratic because the situation in the Slovak media, with which Slovak citizens are familiar, demonstrates otherwise and because Slovak citizens would unmask them as liars. Even the chief

editors of opposition newspapers, when asked directly whether anyone intervened in the contents of their periodicals, did not dare reply in the affirmative. (At the same time, it is no coincidence that SME, SMER DNES, and SLOVENSKY VYCHOD tried to reply surreptitiously to a different question, one that had not been asked, obviously so that their rejection of the assumption that they are being subjected to censorship, uttered through clenched teeth, would not sound so unequivocal.)

Duray and Florian's Spirit

But let us return to the quote about the **"Slovak nation"** and about the Constitution's alleged disregard of everyone else. This formulation in the report is a direct reflection of what some protagonists of Hungarian political movements in Slovakia have been, and still are, disseminating about the Constitution, at variance with reality, and what we have also had to explain in the Council of Europe.

As a curiosity let me mention the report's reprimand (page 9) that even though **"...the preamble of the Constitution does not impair Slovakia's commitments in the sphere of human rights,"** it is **"...insensitive...toward the numerous Slovak minorities...."** (I am leaving aside the declarations made by all national minorities in Slovakia, with the exception of the Hungarian minority, that they do not want the Coexistence movement and Mr. Duray to speak in their name.)

In a paragraph on page 9 of the report, **doubt is being cast on constitutional guarantees toward the Hungarian minority.** Here, too, one can feel the spirit of Duray and Florian's report submitted to the congress of minority groups held in Flensburg. The report simply takes over the invective, according to which Slovakia allegedly could abolish laws benefiting the minorities whenever it wanted to. The insinuation by Hungarian extremist groups that Slovakia might resort to such solutions, which are actually out of the question, is an attempt to create the impression **that the Slovak Republic intends to violate laws.** The opposite is the case and the Hungarian citizens in Slovakia know this very well. No one has abolished Hungarian schools and no one intends to abolish them. Playing games with the text of the Constitution, which even European legal experts have qualified as consistent and good, testifies to the fact that people like Duray want to sow seeds of doubt in the minds not only of fellow Hungarian citizens.

Game With the Slovak Constitution

In this way the American authors of the report also called in question, among other things, the following provisions of the Slovak Constitution: **Article 6, which states that Slovak is the state language on the territory of the Slovak Republic, but which allows for the use of other languages... under conditions regulated by law; Article 21, which states that a person's home is inviolable, but which allows for the possibility of house searches, albeit only in connection with criminal proceedings and only on the basis of the judge's written and substantiated warrant, and in which the principles of a democratic society are fully respected; Article 26, which guarantees the freedom of speech and bans censorship, but which allows for the possibility (in section 4) of the "freedom of speech...being restricted by law if such a measure is unavoidable in a democratic society to protect the rights and liberties of others, state security, public order, or public health and morality"; and Article 28, which guarantees the freedom of assembly, expect for specifically listed exceptions set out in a law and, let us add, recognized in democratic societies everywhere in the world. Especially remarkable is Article 34 of the Constitution, with regard to which the authors of the report do not even mention the wide-ranging rights guaranteed to the minority but, as a counterweight (why?—it does not transpire from the text of the paragraph at all!) only emphasize the sentence "Details will be set out in a law."** Incidentally, this article guarantees the minorities' right to education in their own language as well as the right to use their language in dealings with the authorities. However, these privileges guaranteed by the Constitution did not figure in the Coexistence movement's document for the Flensburg congress either. Quite the contrary, it is claimed in that document that **"further ethnic cleansing is being planned in Slovakia" (!!).**

The authors of the report take over, without a single word of explanation, what had apparently been offered to them by Coexistence informants.

But let us be objective. The subsequent passage of the report opens with the sentence: **"Were the Slovak Constitution to be applied in good faith, it would conform with CSCE standards."** Yet the report goes on to say..."**the evidence of the authorities' intolerance toward minorities and the absence of solidly existing democratic institutions increase the danger that the ambivalent pronouncements of the Constitution and the applied legislation will be used in contravention of Slovakia's international commitments in the sphere of the human dimension.**" (Do you not feel here the "anxiety" spread by members of the Civic Democratic Union-VPN that **there will not be democracy in Slovakia?** Yet democracy exists, and will exist, as every observer of the political scene in Slovakia will confirm.) The authors of the report then actually call in question also Article 34, section 3, of the Constitution, which states that "the enactment of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups... must not be conducive to jeopardizing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Slovak Republic or to discrimination against its other inhabitants." Even the defenders of the Balladur plan, who recently met in Budapest (including Miklos Duray), claim that "border revisions" are unrealistic. The quote in the report, in which emphasis is placed on the second part (discrimination), is peculiar, to say the least, and provides indirect encouragement for such acts as the Constitution warns against.

On page 10 the authors of the report even cast doubt on Slovak courts, which, in their opinion, are not "absolute guarantors" of Slovak commitments in the sphere of human rights. The subsequent sentence states that **"...Prime Minister Meciar apparently** (according to D.S.) **tried to fill the courts with judges sympathetic toward his views..."** (The use of the word "apparently" is **apparently** a safeguard against the accusation of saying something that is not true, which such an unverified statement deserves. And do you know who it was that came up with the idea about judges who allegedly uphold Meciar's views? Well, it was Radio Free Europe, the most reliable supplier of "objective" reports about Slovakia.) The Echo of Martin Simecka

The report's chapter on the media is a thing apart. Here I must draw myself into my comments. **"Members of the then government—specifically Prime Minister Meciar and Minister of Culture Dusan Slobodnik—constantly claim that those who 'slander' the Slovak state, spread 'incorrect' information, or are not 'objective' in their reporting, should be punished or controlled." Minister Slobodnik, for instance, declared that "it is illegal to issue statements that are at variance with the truth, slandering the Slovak nation and denouncing Slovakia."**

Well, I do not know how they might be "controlled." The actual reality is such that, in defiance of all the defamatory claims made by ill-wishers of our state abroad and at home, not even one hair of their heads has been touched.

The quote associated with my name comes (with a small "adaptation") from my article in the 10 September 1992 issue of KULTURNY ZIVOT. The authors of the report also adapted the title of the article, but that is only a detail. The gist of my reply to the interviewer's direct question got lost. The interviewer asked: **"What is anti-Slovak?"** and I replied: **"Anti-Slovak (and not illegal!) is when..."** But the context is missing. In my reply I referred to the provisions of the Penal Code on spreading an alarmist report, which, according to the law (not according to me), is criminally liable. The report also makes no mention of the reasons that made me discuss this issue. **At that time [writer] Martin Simecka wrote in a Dutch newspaper that violence against Hungarians, Jews, Czechs, and Romanies was being prepared in Slovakia.** (You see, this trick of escape to the future was being used again to defame Slovakia.)

You live in the same country as I do and know that no violence has taken place here since July 1992 when Martin Simecka voiced his conjecture. Who knows, Martin Simecka may have been thinking in his favorite Czechoslovak dimension because **quite recently, an 18-year-old Romany drowned as a result of skinhead violence and a 38-year-old man was killed when defending Romanies. Only, this did not happen in Slovakia but west of our border. And last year? Martin Simecka should read the report for the U.S. Congress, according to which between eight and 11 Romanies died in the Czech Republic following attacks.** (Does anyone know of similar racially motivated acts in Slovakia?)

The orientation of the other claims made in the report about the media is similar. The information that Prime Minister Meciar had taken specific steps to restrict the freedom of the press must sound credible to everyone in the world, with the exception of the citizens of Slovakia, who know very well the orientation of **Slovak Television and Slovak Radio and media such as SME, SLOVENSKY DENNIK, SMER DNES, and SLOVENSKY VYCHOD** (if only this were the complete list [of newspapers hostile to the government]!). The fact that no one restricts the press in Slovakia and no one has the right to restrict it becomes irrelevant. The report claims that the press is being "restricted" and the world is supposed to believe it. Butora and Jezik's Handwriting

It is not by coincidence that the report quotes **J. Butorova and M. Butora's article entitled "Democratic Path for Slovakia?,"** which is teeming with anti-Meciar sallies and with the defense of "Czechoslovakists." The Butoras see in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic conflicting articles and claim nonchalantly that a part of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] leadership has a tendency to interpret laws arbitrarily or to violate them outright. The Butoras do not take the trouble to rack their brains about when and where this happened. They wrote it—and that is it! (This only shows what kind of adviser from Slovakia President Havel had....) **Incidentally, the Butoras also ridicule the term "ethical self-regulation" [coined by Prime Minister Meciar]. It must apparently have been frustrating for them to find out about Council of Europe resolution number 1003 about the ethics of journalism.**

But let us return to the report. Roman Kalisky already responded to the allegation that Vladimir Meciar's government supports "loyal" periodicals. In this context the report highlights the SMENA affair. [Former SMENA Chief Editor and current SME Chief Editor] **Mr. Jezik and his colleagues**—do you remember, Mr. Jezik, how tame you were in the office of the minister of education—wanted to retain 50 to 75 percent of their joint venture's profit and not 0.1 percent as they modestly claimed. The evidence can be furnished any time. Only thereafter did they decide, with the help of a Czech-oriented bank (this is how they themselves formulated it in SME, I am only repeating their text), to issue a new daily. The SMENA affair is being transferred from one report to the next, with the aim of discrediting Slovakia. No one is asking: Where did those lads who so zealously criticize all government deeds get the money for a new daily?

I admit that it was hard for me to read the report. Every now and then, something is said in it about Magyarization, for example, but a warning finger is presently raised and, once again, it is Slovakia that finds itself on the pillory. Especially, but not only, with regard to minorities.

The prime minister's speech at Spisska Nova Ves also gets an airing—in a distorted form, of course. It does not matter that the reality was different and that the speech

has been consciously and deliberately distorted. Use is being made of a version that runs counter to not only what the prime minister said but also to his efforts to solve the Romany problem in a democratic way. About Matters on Which the Report Keeps Silent

The minority issue, in particular, is being emphasized in the report in a one-sided way. **There is not one word in it about the 26 Hungarian theaters, the "Young Hearts" professional ensemble, the system of Hungarian schools. Because "...often when the human rights issue is raised, Slovak leaders reply with outrage and paranoia,** (this word figures twice in the report in relation to Slovaks) **reject everything and say that, whatever problem may arise, it is something orchestrated by Prague centrists or Hungarian irridentists." (The words in the report that Slovaks from Hungary do not address petitions to the international community, which supposedly shows that the Hungarian government does not treat them in a discriminatory way, sound almost like blasphemy. "Quite the contrary, it seems as if the Slovak authorities' concern for the ethnic minority of Slovaks in Hungary was rather a calculated defensive step on their part and not genuine apprehension about this community."** (that is, the Slovak minority in Slovakia—D.S.) Indeed, this requires no comment!

Ivan Gasparovic's talks in Washington and Slovak diplomats' protests have at least succeeded in halting the distribution of the report.

Until When and In Whose Favor?

But one question, the question of questions, remains: How much longer will the ill-wishers of Slovak statehood be able to inform the world about Slovakia in such a tendentious and one-sided way? When will the responsible people in governments, commissions, and committees abroad realize that the good old "Audiatur et altera pars" [Listen also to the other side] should also hold true for Slovakia? Slovakia, the Slovak nation, and the Slovak government, too, have the right to be assessed objectively and "to be listened to as the other side."

This is the real crux of the problem. The battle against Slovakia is not being waged by means of truth and facts but, as a matter of principle and all the time, only by means of tendentious, false, and defamatory information that distorts the truth. If only the truth was being said about Slovakia of the years 1992-93—no undeserved praise, but no conscious lies and horrors either—the world would have grasped the reality of Slovakia long ago.

This is not an academic dispute. Slovakia's denouncers are not just feathering their own political nest. They disseminate to the world reports whose aim is to damage Slovakia—also, and, above all, economically (do you believe that they do so selflessly?).

This raises the question: Cui prodest? Who is to be served by this? Try to answer this question yourselves.

Doctor Says Antall's Health 'Satisfactory'

LD2510180693 Budapest MTI in English 1416 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Budapest, October 25 (MTI)—The health of Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall is satisfactory in the circumstances, Professor Volker Diehl, head of the medical team in Cologne treating Antall, said on Monday.

Being treated for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at the 1st Medical Clinic of Cologne University since October 6, Antall underwent an autological parent cell transplant on October 14.

"Physicians are satisfied with results so far, with therapy going as scheduled. The parent cells have resumed forming blood cells without any complications. The next medical report is expected in a week," a clinic statement says.

Minister Sees Exports as Key Factor in Prosperity

AU2510121293 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 22 Oct 93 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Bela Kadar, minister for international economic relations, by Sandor T. Bekes; place and date not given: "Bela Kadar: It Is Not the Forint Devaluation That Causes Inflation"]

[Text] Forint devaluation causes exports to increase, and, therefore, it mainly helps Hungarian products to gain access to international markets. Naturally, this measure also increases inflationary pressures, but no one should believe that the occasional nominal devaluation of the forint has been the reason for inflation in Hungary over recent years, Bela Kadar said in his interview to UJ MAGYARORSZAG, in which our correspondent asked him about the economic effects of forint devaluation and the chances of increasing exports.

[Bekes] In your view, to what extent does forint devaluation help boost Hungarian exports?

[Kadar] If an exporter receives 4.5 percent more for his goods than a month before then this is clearly to his advantage. At the same time, this is not a pleasure for those enterprises that have been selling goods on the domestic market, such as Hungarian products assembled from imported spare parts. However, this cannot be a goal of modernization strategy, so from now on we wish to establish production methods in Hungary that are based on Hungarian intellectual capacities, and the skills and innovatory abilities of domestic labor. This is the future of the country, rather than the profit gained from the sale of—occasionally poor quality—consumer goods assembled from imports.

[Bekes] Are you not worried about the inflationary effects of devaluation?

[Kadar] Naturally, devaluation strengthens inflationary pressures, but no one should believe that the forint's occasional nominal devaluation has been the reason for inflation in Hungary in the past four years. In fact, the forint's loss of value lagged far behind the inflationary processes. Four years ago, it was only possible to buy foreign currency on the black market, but now, even after devaluing the forint, it can be bought at the National Bank almost at the same cost as the former black market price. In the meantime, consumer and producer prices have increased by almost 200 percent. Taking all this into consideration, we cannot say that Hungarian inflation has come from the exchange rate policy.

[Bekes] You once said that the road that we can take to Europe is narrow. When can we expect the Hungarian economy to start moving, and when will this become tangible for the population?

[Kadar] Prosperity—and, together with this, the increase of the citizens' incomes and the improvement of their standard of living—depends on whether the Hungarian economy will start on a course of growth or will remain stuck in the gloomy quagmire of everyday finances. Economic development can only be achieved in the circumstances when exports increase. Up to the end of last year's summer, our export offensive had been unfolding successfully but, after that, it started to stall and decrease because of foreign and domestic factors. The first fruits of the export incentives package that was accepted by the government a month ago will be visible in the second half of 1994. If we have a lastingly certain image of the future, a general improvement will begin, together with increasing exports. However, its significance and its effects on the citizens must not be exaggerated because, even if these tendencies become predominant, and if we consider optimum circumstances, for example, 5-percent growth in 1996, it would not immediately improve the general mood. Growth has to last a number of years before the citizens perceive the effects of positive processes already recognized by economists.

Nuclear Industry Agreement Signed With Canada

LD2510184593 Budapest MTI in English 1511 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Budapest, October 25 (MTI)—Don Lawson, president of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., and Istvan Szucs, deputy state secretary at the Hungarian Ministry of Industry and Trade, signed a nuclear industry cooperation agreement in Budapest on Monday.

The accord offers considerable technical and intellectual assistance for nuclear research and Uranium mining in Hungary, and provides help in working out conditions for the possible building of a nuclear power plant here.

Szucs stressed that the Hungarian Government had no plan to build a nuclear power plant, but had considered the possibility, just as in the case of coal and lignite-based power plants, since its entry into office.

Hungary previously concluded a similar agreement with the Belgian Government.

Pawlak Announces Nominees for New Government

LD2510153293 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1300 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Today Prime Minister designate Waldemar Pawlak presented the composition of the government to President Lech Walesa and later to journalists. At a news conference Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak also explained the reasons for confusion concerning a candidature of Professor Grzegorz Kolodko to a post of minister of finance. [passage omitted]

[Begin Pawlak recording] Now our proposals concerning the government.
Marek Borowski, deputy prime minister for economic matters.
Aleksander Luczak, deputy prime minister and minister of national education also responsible for the state administration.
Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, deputy prime minister and justice minister responsible for work of the social and political committee of the council of ministers.
Henryk Chmielak, minister of finance.
Leslaw Podkanski, minister for foreign economic cooperation.
Andrzej Wieczorkiewicz, ministrer for ownership tranformations.
Marek Pol, minister of trade and industry.
Boguslaw Liberadzki, minister of transport and maritime economy.
Andrzej Zielinski, minister of communications.
Stanislaw Zelichowski, minister of environment protection.
Ms. Barbara Blida, minister of construction.
Andrzej Smietanko, minister of agriculture and food economy.
Miroslaw Pietrewicz, head of the Central Planning Office.
Andrzej Milczanowski, minister of internal affairs.
Piotr Kolodziejczyk, minister of national defense.
Andrzej Olechowski, minister of foreign affairs.
Michal Strak, head of the Council of Ministers' Office.
Leszek Miller, minister of labor and social policy.
Ryszard Jacek Zochowski, minister of health and social care.
Kazimierz Dejmek, minister of culture and arts.
Witold Karczewski, head of the Committee for Scientific Research.

[Passage omitted]

[Announcer] Waldemar Pawlak announced that the new government will take an oath in the Belweder [the seat of the president] at noon tomorrow.

Walesa To Appoint Government

LD2510205493 Warsaw PAP in English 2036 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 25—President Lech Walesa has decided to appoint the new government proposed by Prime Minister Designate Waldemar Pawlak, Presidential Spokesman Andrzej Drzycimski told PAP on Monday evening [25 October].

He added that the official motion of the prime minister designate concerning the appointment of the new cabinet was handed over to the president by one of the leaders of the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) Aleksander Luczak in the afternoon.

If the prime minister and the ministers forming his cabinet are sworn-in by the president on Tuesday as it is expected, the prime minister should within 14 days submit to the Sejm the programme of its work and ask for a vote of confidence. Under the Small Constitution, the Sejm passes the vote of confidence with an absolute majority of votes.

The Waldemar Pawlak cabinet is the first to be appointed in line with the Small Constitution, in force since December 8, 1992, under which the new government starts its activities by the president's ordinance, Drzycimski said.

The motion for a vote of confidence for the new government will be submitted by the Sejm Presidium to appropriate Sejm committees which are to provide opinions concerning candidates appointed by the president.

However, a negative assessment of a given minister by a committee does not mean that a motion not to approve a minister can be submitted to the Sejm. The person of prime minister is not subject to committees assessment.

Finance Portfolio Uncertain

LD2510172193 Warsaw TVP Television Second Program Network in Polish 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] President Lech Walesa will at noon on 26 October appoint the government as presented to him by Waldemar Pawlak on 25 October. Deputy prime minister posts will be combined with ministerial posts. Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz will simultaneously be justice minister. Aleksander Luczak will also be minister of national education, and Marek Borowski will probably also be finance minister. Henryk Chmielak is the other candidate.

The meeting with the president was scheduled for 1000. However, the resignation of Professor Grzegorz Kolodko as a candidate for finance minister made it necessary for Pawlak to discuss the situation that had occurred with the leaders of the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD]. It is unofficially known that Prof. Kolodko considers the way in which he has been invited to join the government an insult. The issue is that he has been presented as a candidate of the SLD, and he feels independent and would like to implement his own state finance policy.

Aleksander Kwasniewski and the candidates for deputy prime minister—Cimoszewicz, Luczak, and Borowski—also took part in Pawlak's consultation round this

morning. Borowski has not yet decided whether to accept the portfolio of finance minister.

Pawlak Makes Changes

LD2510213493 Warsaw PAP in English 2123 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct 25—Prime Minister Designate Waldemar Pawlak told reporters Monday evening that he forwarded changes to his government composition to the president.

Marek Borowski is to be the deputy prime minister and finance minister, Wieslaw Kaczmarek is to be the privatisation minister. Both represent the SLD.

President To Accept Changes

LD2610111493 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Presidential spokesman Andrzej Drzycimski said this morning, in reply to a question by a Polish Radio 3 journalist about Lech Walesa's attitude toward changes to the composition of the future government which has already been approved by the president, said the president will accept the changes and will not hamper anything. The president believes responsibility for the government lies solely with Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak.

The spokesman added that questions could arise as regards the post of justice minister. Certain formal requirements should be met in accordance with the law on the prosecutor's office. If there are to be any formal obstacles concerning any person, this person might be sworn-in later in order not to delay the process of forming a government.

President Walesa favors speeding up the matters which are connected with specific public expectations, the spokesman said.

PSL, SLD Agree on Coalition Activities

LD2510231493 Warsaw PAP in English 2305 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 25—Leaders of the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) and the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) agreed on Monday evening [25 October] on "the principles of the coalition activities related to decision formulation by the government led by Waldemar Pawlak."

The document says that leaders of both coalition parties and chairmen of the parties parliamentary floor groups bear the responsibility for appropriate coalition activities. Drafts of strategic political, economic and personnel decisions of the government are to be forwarded to chairmen of both parliamentary caucuses before being finally made.

Decisions concerning members of leadership of all ministries designated by the coalition groupings are to be made by the prime minister in conjunction with respective deputy prime ministers and the chairmen of those coalition parties' parliamentary caucuses which representatives are not heading a given ministry.

The document further explains that decisions concerning personnel issues at the provincial government administration level should be consulted with chairmen of the coalition parties parliamentary caucuses before being adopted.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Arrives in Bucharest

LD2510173093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1208 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Oct (TANJUG)—Federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic arrived in Bucharest today for a two-day official visit to Romania at the invitation of Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu. Radoje Kontic is accompanied by Federal Minister for Economy Tomislav Simovic and some other high-ranking federal and Serbian officials.

The Yugoslav delegation was welcomed at the Otopeni international airport by Prime Minister Vacaroiu and four state secretaries from various departments.

The welcome ceremony was also attended by Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Romania Desimir Jevtic and his aides.

Federal Prime Minister Kontic's visit has assumed larger proportions than regular visits to Romania by foreign prime ministers. This was noted this morning by the distinguished Bucharest newspaper ADEVARUL, and was was reaffirmed in Premier Vacaroiu's statement after the Yugoslav delegation arrived. He welcomed "guests from our friendly neighboring country" in exceptionally cordial terms, mentioning "more aid for our friends at this difficult moment."

Welcoming the Yugoslav delegation, Romanian Prime Minister Vacaroiu expressed his particular satisfaction at the arrival of the Yugoslav federal prime minister, and said that he hopes that he personally and the members of his delegation will conduct "a comprehensive analysis of relations between the two countries and discuss a number of problems in their economic cooperation and trade in particular." At the same time he pointed out that in the course of the talks Romania's "capacity to help its traditional friends at this difficult moment" will be examined.

President Vacaroiu said that some other topical problems of the two countries will also be discussed during the talks, including problems in regard to the international situation. He said he believes that the Yugoslav-Romanian talks will be open and sincere, "like those two friends, Romania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, have always had."

Federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic expressed his satisfaction that he is visiting the friendly country of Romania and its people and stressed that "in Europe it is hard to find a similar example of such good and friendly relations between two neighbors as those between Yugoslavia and Romania." Our relations have been put to various trials but we have nevertheless always managed to find the right solutions to our problems. Radoje Kontic said that the talks will concentrate on bilateral relations as well as on the crisis in the former Yugoslavia and Romania's role and position in resolving the crisis.

Kontic stressed that Yugoslav-Romanian relations have always been friendly, but added that at this moment they are at an all-time low in the economic field, "not because the two countries wished so, but as a result of the UN sanctions." We believe, Kontic said, that conditions ought to be created now for comprehensive bilateral cooperation, once the sanctions have been lifted.

Kontic particularly stressed that Yugoslavia believes that Romania could play a significant role in the abolition or alleviation of sanctions, adding that he thinks this is "primarily in Romania's interest, and is not only an expression of its friendly attitude toward the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia." He went on to say that Romania, "after Yugoslavia, is one of the countries suffering most extensive damage due to the sanctions."

The federal prime minister stressed that Yugoslavia has fulfilled all the conditions from the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, that peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina is practically within reach, and that conditions have been created for starting to ease the sanctions and for their eventual abolition.

In conclusion Kontic thanked his hosts for the humanitarian aid granted to Yugoslavia so far, and also for their readiness to increase the aid and to organize widespread action in collecting humanitarian aid for Yugoslavia.

Prior to the first round of official talks with his host, Romanian Prime Minister Vacaroiu and Federal Prime Minister Kontic laid a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier in Bucharest.

This afternoon talks between the two prime ministers and members of their delegations are to be held; later this afternoon Prime Minister Kontic is to be received by Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

The Yugoslav delegation is to tour Timisoara and the Timok district tomorrow morning.

Meets With President Iliescu

AU2510201093 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Report by Dusko Petrovic from Bucharest]

[Excerpt] [Petrovic] This evening, President Ion Iliescu of Romania received FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] Prime Minister Radoje Kontic, who is on a two-day official visit to Romania at the invitation of Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu.

Prime Minister Kontic extended to the Romanian president the sincere greetings and message sent by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, FRY President Zoran Lilic, and Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic.

After cordial and friendly talks with the Romanian president, which went on for about 50 minutes, Radoje Kontic held a brief news conference. He said that the main issues in the Yugoslav-Romanian dialogue were

the bilateral relations between the two countries, the crisis on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, the sanctions and blockade against Yugoslavia—the effects of which were causing severe damage to Romania, too—and humanitarian issues. Kontic said that the shared conclusion was that it was necessary to undertake every measure to annul Resolution 820, and that the conditions had been created for the alleviation of sanctions against Yugoslavia, that is, for their lifting. An agreement was also reached, as he said, to create conditions now for the concrete economic cooperation between the two countries that would become effective upon the lifting of the sanctions. He said that a high level of accord had been reached on all the issues discussed.

[Kontic] We have assessed that [word indistinct] conditions were created for the lifting of the sanctions, that is, that conditions have been met for the start of alleviating the sanctions imposed by the international community, particularly Resolution 820. This resolution was passed because of the Vance-Owen plan, which was later to become just another piece of paper. We have asked ourselves why then this resolution is still in force, why it is still active. We came to the conclusion that it was vital to undertake measures to annul this resolution. [passage omitted]

Comments on Visit

AU2510211793 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] President Ion Iliescu today received FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] Prime Minister Radoje Kontic, who conveyed greetings from the presidents of Yugoslavia, Serbia, and Montenegro. He appreciated Romania's principled position vis-a-vis Yugoslavia.

According to our correspondent, at the end of the meeting, which was also attended by Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and Mr. Marcel Dinu, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Yugoslav prime minister made a brief statement to the many journalists present at the meeting. He expressed satisfaction at this visit and termed the discussions held with the Romanian president and prime minister as open, friendly, and constructive. One of the problems broached during these discussions was the sanctions imposed against Yugoslavia and their consequences on the economic and social situation in the two countries, he said. FRY Prime Minister Kontic considered that conditions have been created to attenuate these sanctions, with a view to their cancellation in the future. In this respect, he valued the substantial humanitarian aid granted by Romania to Yugoslavia and emphasized the Yugoslav desire that this assistance should continue.

Answering certain questions by the journalists, the Yugoslav prime minister pointed out Romania's role as element of stability in this part of Europe and praised President Iliescu's principled policy on the Yugoslav problem, during high level contacts both in Europe and outside our continent.

Vacaroiu Comments on Food-Processing Industry

AU2210202993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1818 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 22/10/1993—Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu criticized at the government meeting on Friday, October 22, the attitudes of the ministers of agriculture, finance and commerce who altogether have competence with respect to the supply program for the population, government spokesman said.

The premier demanded that the relevant ministries take firm measures so that the state-owned food-processing enterprises should stipulate clearly in their contracts with retailers certain mandatory conditions with regard to the delivery of goods to the population and the maximum mark-up consented to by the producers. The prime minister demanded also that a system be perfected in order to protect domestic producers and to stimulate the export of the exceeding balances as well as tariffs to be imposed on imported goods whose similars are plentifully available inside the country.

Referring to the boom of the prices displayed by some private shops, the premier demanded that the finance minister find specific instruments bar these practices, government spokesman said.

Senate Rejects Censure Motion on Procedural Grounds

AU2610060693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Parliament's two chambers today discussed the ordinary censure motion presented by eight parliamentary opposition parties. The Senate rejected the document on procedural grounds without proceeding to substantial debates. The vote was as follows: 67 for rejecting the motion, four votes in favor of the motion, and three abstentions. Thirty-seven senators, members of the opposition, did not make use of their right to vote. After the announcement of the results of the voting, Senator Emil Tocaci asked those present—senators and correspondents—to take note of this.

In the Chamber of Deputies, the motion is being submitted to voting at this very time.

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 26 October
WA2610164293

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Bosnian Presidency arrests Sarajevo commanders ... Silajdzic to name new cabinet within days ... UNHCR convoy hit during Muslim-Croat battle in central Bosnia ... Bosnian Croats bar UNPROFOR efforts to investigate massacre allegations, evacuate Muslim wounded.

POLITICAL

SARAJEVO COMMANDERS ARRESTED (Sarajevo Radio): Bosnian Presidency announces arrest of 276 members of two Bosnian Army brigades in Sarajevo for "criminal activities," bans all "movement around the city." (AU2610083993, AU2610122593)

SILAJDZIC TO ANNOUNCE NEW CABINET (Sarajevo Radio): Bosnian Prime Minister-designate Silajdzic tells reporter that he will present a new government "probably tomorrow or the day after," says his main tasks will be to strive for a "just peace" and enable population to "survive this winter." (AU2510195193)

HUMANITARIAN

UNHCR CONVOY ATTACKED (TANJUG): Danish driver killed, nine UNPROFOR personnel wounded in attack on UNHCR convoy, caught in Bosnian Croat-Muslim crossfire near Novi Travnik. (LD2510150193)

CROATS THWART UNPROFOR (AFP): UNPROFOR spokesman says Bosnian Croats barred peacekeepers from entering Stolni Dol to investigate reports of Croatian massacre of 250 Muslim inhabitants. Croatian demonstrators reportedly thwarted UNPROFOR attempt to evacuate Muslim wounded from Mostar. (AU2510190193)

Silajdzic Outlines Priorities of New Government

AU2510195193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Interview with Prime Minister-designate Haris Silajdzic by Rafka Denjalic on 25 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Denjalic] Mr. Silajdzic, in these difficult moments for our country, the Presidency entrusted you with a mandate to form a new government this morning. What do you intend to do?

[Silajdzic] We intend to strive to ensure that things do not get worse, since they can get worse. The government of a country that is practically being attacked from all sides by its neighbors must have a war government. This does not mean that it will have a government that will pursue war. What does this mean? It means that we will work upon peace as much as upon defense. We have not started this war and we cannot end it, but we will definitely strive for what is usually being called a just peace, although after this war there can never be either a just war or a just peace.

Therefore, we must secure the basis for the survival of our residents and for the alleviation of suffering and difficulties as much as possible. At this moment, I do not know what [words indistinct].

[Denjalic] When can we expect the new government?

[Silajdzic] Probably tomorrow or the day after.

[Denjalic] Will this be an expert government or do you already have an idea about people who could work in it?

[Silajdzic] I would say that I will form a government of capable and loyal people as much as possible. That is, of the people who are loyal to Bosnia and to the task they perform. Therefore, of expert and loyal people, and that is the most important thing.

[Denjalic] Recently, the Presidency of the Republic has been completed and we will now also have a new government. After 18 months of aggression and sometimes also the rambling of our own authorities, the residents of Bosnia-Herzegovina wait anxiously for changes, quick ones as well. What would your message to the residents of Bosnia-Herzegovina be at this moment?

[Silajdzic] You see, we have survived something that was—at least abroad and I was abroad a lot—practically assessed as a war of everybody against Bosnia. We have withstood that much. The message is that we will probably have to survive through this winter. The government's task is to make this as painless as possible. Everybody must help us in this. We are all involved and everybody must help us. We will therefore strive to secure the basic life essentials, greater safety of the personal property of residents, as efficient as possible a distribution of aid by the international organizations upon which we are, unfortunately, dependent, and the continued representation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the world, as it deserves.

Naturally, I do not doubt for a moment that Bosnia-Herzegovina will have peace and a future worthy of the struggle it is fighting.

[Denjalic] Thank you for the interview. I wish much success in the difficult task that you have undertaken to you and all of us.

Izetbegovic Interviewed on Government Formation

LD2510231993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 25 Oct 93

["Portion" of interview with President Alija Izetbegovic by Duska Jurisic in Sarajevo on 25 October—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] We first broadcast a portion of this evening's interview with President Izetbegovic by Duska Jurisic. Among other things President Izetbegovic spoke about the government reconstruction and events in the Bihac region.

[Izetbegovic] You know that there was a certain dilemma in choosing between Bukvic and Haris [Silajdzic]. As for me, I opted for Haris, for the very reason that we cannot avoid the winter, we cannot avoid the war. What we can avoid is having our people say to us that we have not chosen the most competent people to try to pull us out of this calamity. That is what we can do and that is what we will try to do.

[Jurisic] What task does the new prime minister-designate have? What kind of a government should he appoint? A political party or a government of experts?

[Izetbegovic] Haris has just answered this question. He has the task of pulling together the brains of Bosnia. When we discussed the government, we said that it must not be a Sarajevo government, but a Bosnian Government. That means that he should try to bring some people from Tuzla, Mostar, [Bosanska] Krajina. Of course, the largest number of them will be from Sarajevo. In any case, they should be the most able group of people we can put together. You will see, tomorrow or the day after, I do not know when exactly. I think that he will present his cabinet to the presidency and the public tomorrow.

I anticipate among other things that at least six or seven people will be directly incorporated into the government from some regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina [other than Sarajevo]. That way, on the one hand we have a greater potential [as heard]; On the other hand our regions would then be represented in the government in a more direct way. That is a measure that the government is taking at the Presidency's proposal in order to link parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which, you see, some are trying to break up in every way. That is a concrete measure.

I think that Haris has planned on having special ministries for Herzegovina, the Tuzla region, [Bosanska] Krajina, central Bosnia, etc. Ministers will be in charge of one region only.

[Jurisic] What are in your opinion the government's priority tasks?

[Izetbegovic] I would put them in this order—we will see what he has in his program—but I think that they are primarily: the safety of citizens, legality, which we need as much as bread, [words indistinct]. As you know, we have problems in that field. So, strengthening the law-governed state everywhere, and linking the parts of Bosnia, as I have just said. These are measures that would make us feel bonded in Bosnia-Herzegovina, all on an equal footing. Due to the blockades, the forces of disintegration have gained in momentum, as a result of communication blockade.

Also, there are some very concrete things regarding feeding the population and getting through the winter with less difficulty. Therefore, fuel, energy, food. And of course the government will try to implement some of these agreements, to possibly freeze the lines with those who are attacking Bosnia-Herzegovina, to stop the shooting as far as possible, etc. That, of course does not depend much on us, it depends on the other sides, but we will certainly work on it.

Those would approximately be the tasks—and of course a struggle for a whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina, an integral Bosnia-Herzegovina, for the preservation of the state and the preservation of democracy.

[Jurisic] The foreign press and the Belgrade and Zagreb propaganda machines are giving wide coverage to the meetings Fikret Abdic had with Mate Boban in Zagreb and with [Bosnian Serb leader Radovan] Karadzic and [Serbian President Slobodan] Milosevic in Belgrade. Can such moves on the part of Fikret Abdic have any effect on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Izetbegovic] Not really. As you well know, the Presidency has not even declared itself in this regard. We just viewed that as the activities of a common criminal, so the only body to have reacted was the Internal Affairs Ministry. We have said all there was to say in this respect. This, of course, is a case of treason against Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is more than evident from these meetings Abdic had with [Croatian President Franjo] Tudjman and Milosevic.

The recent press citing of the Geneva documents is absolutely groundless, because the Geneva documents were never signed. Even if they were, they did not envisage any form of autonomy and, I may even say, they are in contrast with what was discussed there.

In all, Abdic received a large number of votes at the elections here because he resurfaced as a martyr after that Agrokomerc affair and was supported at the time by the Party of Democratic Action, and he received a large number of votes not only from the Muslims but from the others as well. I do not believe he would receive any votes in Bosnia-Herzegovina now. After this act of treason, he has lost all support in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Abdic Sends Open Letter to Izetbegovic

LD2510170793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1535 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Petrovac, 25 Oct (TANJUG)—Fikret Abdic, president of the autonomous province of western Bosnia, sent an open letter to Alija Izetbegovic today, the Western Bosnian News Agency [ZBIA] reports.

Recalling that Alija Izetbegovic has been constantly and arbitrarily violating the republican constitution and the laws of Bosnia-Herzegovina over the last three years in an attempt to consolidate his tribalistic and nepotist reign at all costs, Abdic notes that one of the conditions for such a reign is to deny Abdic the legitimacy of a convincing victory at the first multiparty elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In his letter, Abdic says that his first task is to establish peace, and that with this goal in mind he will ask the presidents of Croatia and Serbia to contribute as much as possible "in the capacity of statesmen, without whom peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina would not be possible."

Abdic Proclaims Himself 'Moral' President

AU2610075093 Paris AFP in English 0326 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Zagreb, Oct 26 (AFP)—Fikret Abdic, the wealthy agribusinessman who has split Bosnian Moslems by declaring autonomy for his home enclave of Bihac, on Monday [25 October] proclaimed he was morally the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an open letter to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Abdic recalled that he had won multi-party elections in 1990 but had stood aside in favour of Izetbegovic, whom he was now determined to oppose.

Declaring himself the constitutional and moral president of Bosnia, Abdic said he stood against Izetbegovic, who has rejected a UN-brokered carve-up of Bosnia along ethnic lines, in order to "end the suffering of the Moslems and all the other peoples" of the former Yugoslavia.

Explaining why he had signed mutual recognition pacts last week with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban, Abdic said his "main objective is to reestablish peace, and to that end I will solicit the greatest possible involvement of Croat President Franjo Tudjman and Serb President Slobodan Milosevic."

He also called for the trial of war criminals, saying Izetbegovic must answer for taking advantage of the deaths of 200,000 Moslems.

Presidency Arrests Commanders in Sarajevo

AU2610083993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] In order to consolidate and [word indistinct] the ranks of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army—at yesterday's session the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency decided to dismiss Musan Topalovic-(?Cato), commander of the 10th Hill Brigade, and Ramiz Delalic-Celo, deputy commander of the 9th Motorized Brigade. This is said in today's statement from the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs. The two commanders have been replaced by Izet Bekovac as commander of the 9th Hill Brigade, and Senad (?Petar), former commander of the staff of the 10th Hill Brigade, as (?deputy) commander of this brigade.

The replaced commanders will be arrested as they have been charged for criminal activities, inter alia, together with a small number of members of their units.

The fighters of these units, who have thus far carried out all their duties very conscientiously, are asked to help clear up the situation, which primarily damages the reputation of these units, and offer every assistance to the newly-appointed commanders. Thus will they best demonstrate loyalty to the aims of the armed struggle. During the arrest, the Ministry of Internal Affairs will respond to any resistance with adequate use of force.

Concerning this matter, we would like to warn the populace that movement around the city is banned during the conduct of this operation for reasons of personal security and an unhindered execution of this task.

Upon initiating the legal arrest procedures, the members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs and Armed Forces arrested 146 members of the 9th Motorized Brigade and the 10th Hill Brigade and placed them in isolation. This is revealed in the statement by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Among the arrested are Djemo Topalovic, Faid Aldibegovic, Sulejman Topic, and Izet (?Muftic), otherwise known as Giant [Dzin]. None of those arrested offered any resistance during the arrest. On the contrary, all the arrested demonstrated readiness to cooperate to solve the situation in a peaceful way. This is said in the statement of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs.

During the inquiry all those arrested stated they had been manipulated by their commanders (?Cato) and Celo, and distanced themselves from the criminal activities committed by the said commanders. All the arrested expressed unreserved support to the General Staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Armed Forces and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, saying that they would continue to defend Bosnia-Herzegovina unrelentingly, concludes the statement by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Barricades Erected

AU2610084393 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The Sarajevo main bakery has produced bread for all the communes of the Sarajevo region.

Sarelians can hope to get bread upon the completion of the operation by the Ministry of Internal Affairs on arresting the members of the 10th Hill Brigade and the 9th Motorized Brigade, and once the barricades in the city are removed.

Commanders 'Held in Isolation'

AU2610122593 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The latest information from the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Armed Forces states that 278 members of the 10th Hill Brigade and the 9th Motorized Brigade are being held in isolation.

After inquiries were held, 84 members of these two brigades were released. Senad Tasic, security commander of the 10th Hill Brigade, has also been arrested. The Reconnaissance Unit and the Military Police Company of the 9th Motorized Brigade, and the command of the 1st Battalion of the 10th Hill Brigade have come over of their own initiative and placed themselves under the command of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Staff.

Bajazit (?Tuzovic), known as Baja, from the command of the 10th Hill Brigade, has also given himself up. He is calling on all the [word indistinct] fighters of the 10th Hill Brigade and the 9th Motorized Brigade to join the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Armed Forces, and to support all their measures and operations. (?Malko Rovcanin) from the 9th Motorized Brigade joins this appeal. He, too, has expressed loyalty to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Armed Forces.

Silajdzic Complains to UN over Croatian 'Massacres'

LD2510223593 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Haris Silajdzic, minister of foreign affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has sent a letter to the UN Security Council.

The letter says: We wish to inform you about the latest in a series of massacres committed by Croat extremists in the village of Stupni Dol, near Vares in central Bosnia. The death toll has not yet been established but it is known that the entire village has been destroyed and all of its inhabitants murdered, including the children.

The genocide continues, Haris Silajdzic says in his letter to the president of the UN Security Council. Despite all efforts by the Bosnia-Herzegovina government to find a peaceful resolution and to improve the humanitarian situation, the destruction, starvation, and the genocide continue. With this in mind, we call on the UN Security Council to urgently take all measures in its domain, based on relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council.

Massacre Detailed

AU2510134293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Report by Salih Hadzialic from Visoko]

[Excerpts] Our public has already been informed about the crime that was committed by the extremists of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] from Vares and Kakanj in Stupni Dol in Vares commune two days ago, on 23 October.

This village no longer exists. We received new details concerning Stupni Dol from the command of the (?Istok) Operations Group in (?Visoko). The massacre was preceded by a combined artillery and infantry attack on Stupni Dol by the HVO extremists from all directions. The village had been surrounded by the HVO since the beginning of the war.

Prior to the HVO attack, the Serb-Montenegrin aggressor had pounded the zone of the responsibility of the headquarters of the Vares commune with artillery. The attack was launched on the villages of Utezelji, Hodzici, Kadarici, Dabravine, and Strizevo, which was attacked on three occasions on 23 October with a total of 60 mortar shells of 120 mm, and tank shells fired from the (?Palitovici) region, from [name indistinct] and Mrakovo. This is yet more proof and confirmation of the open cooperation between the chetniks and the ustashas, who are in this way carrying out the agreement of the criminals Tudjman and Milosevic on the division of Bosnia.

About 500 extremist fighters of the HVO from Vares and Kakanj attacked the village of Stupni Dol. The village was defended by a unit with about 39 firearms, including hunting weapons. Supported by artillery, our forces offered superhuman resistance, but were overcome within several hours.

One should stress that at the time of attack UN forces with two personnel carriers were deployed in the region of [name indistinct] (?and) Han and had their barrels pointing in the direction of our defense lines. They clearly saw what was being prepared for the village of Stupni Dol.

Several days before the crime took place, UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] and the EC observers were warned in direct contacts that, after losing the battle for the village of Kopijari, the HVO fighters could commit revenge crimes against the innocent Muslim population of Stupni Dol. Unfortunately, this proved to be the case.

We were told by the surviving fighters and villagers that 50 houses were set ablaze, more than 80 civilians and fighters were killed, and more than 120 civilians captured. They were taken to Vares in trucks. The cruelty of the crime and the massacre is illustrated by the fact that the ustashas killed parents in front of their children and butchered children in front of their parents. The bodies were thrown in houses which were than set ablaze. [passage omitted]

A massacre was also carried out against small children, old men, and the sick. It is feared that the number of killed is much higher than the figure that is mentioned above. When they stormed the village, the ustashas demand money and gold. They raped women in the nearby houses and then killed them.

One more thing concerning UNPROFOR. As soon as it was learned that the attack on Stupni Dol started, UNPROFOR in Visoko was informed, but, even after this intervention, they did not go to Vares and Stupni Dol immediately. They only set off there after it was insisted again. They were prevented from entering the villages by the HVO. It was too late anyhow. The crime had been committed. The Muslims in Vares experienced a horrible exodus. So, the (?Amici) has been repeated again.

This is Salih Hadzialic reporting for Radio and Television of Bosnia-Herzegovina from Visoko.

Serbs Reportedly Resume Attacks on Sarajevo

AU2510153493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The most difficult situation on the fronts in Bosnia-Herzegovina today was in Sarajevo. Here is a report from the 1st Army Corps:

The aggressor continued to shell the defense lines of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and civilian districts in Sarajevo in the afternoon, as it did this morning.

The aggressor intensively pounded Smiljevici and Sokolj with a gun from Mihaljevici and a howitzer from (?Stukovi). Three 82-mm mortar shells that came from the direction of Kasindolska Street landed on Stup 2. At (?1220), the wider area of Golo Brdo and Vis came under strong artillery fire from howitzers in Poljine. Three mortar shells fired from the direction of [name indistinct] ended on Senicka Kosa, which suffered heavy destruction today.

Strong artillery fire from the positions of the Serb aggressor was followed by a severe attack of the aggressor's infantry on the region of Zuc hill. The Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina repelled this enemy attack easily, demonstrating once again the strength of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina made up of young and patriotic fighters.

Two Killed, Four Injured in Attacks on Mostar

AU2510155293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Report by Information Service of the 4th Corps of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army]

[Text] This morning the ustasha forces attacked the very center of this town, in which beside [word indistinct] residents several thousand exiled civilians from other communes have also found shelter, from their positions from all available artillery arms—mortars of all types and calibers, tanks, and multiple rocket launchers. After a horrendous artillery cannonade with which the entire region was shaking, the enemy forces moved into a fierce combined tank-infantry attack against the separating lines and the town itself from the direction of Buna.

The soldiers of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army are successfully resisting the attacks. All separating lines that are under firm control of the units of the 4th Corps are being defended with high morale among our troops.

According to the reports that we have received from the military hospital, two people died from the consequences of the aggressor's combat activities while four were injured.

Infantry Clashes South of Mostar Reported

LD2510142393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Mostar is almost completely peaceful. However, since this morning, heavy infantry fighting has been in progress south of Mostar, in the area between Buna and Blagaj. Fighting started early this morning when Muslim forces launched yet another attack; the main headquarters of the Croatian Defense Forces [HVO] has said that HVO positions had been defended.

Heavy fighting has been in progress in central Bosnia since this morning. The Muslim army has been pounding the center of Vitez from howitzers and tanks, and has been carrying out infantry attacks on the villages of Bobasi, Crveno Brdo, and Lazine in the vicinity of Vitez and the village of Kuber near Busovaca.

Helicopters that should have evacuated a group of wounded people from the Muslim-controlled part of Mostar yesterday are still in Medjugorje. A UN Protection Forces convoy transporting the wounded has not yet left Mostar because refugees and family members of the Croat POW's in Medjugorje are not allowing their evacuation until the Muslim side fulfills an agreement on the exchange by releasing 100 POW's from the eastern part of Mostar, which they were obliged to do four days ago.

Prisoner Exchange Suspended in Mostar

AU2210142693 Paris AFP in English 1402 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Oct 22 (AFP)—An exchange of Bosnian Croat and Moslem prisoners in the southern town of Mostar was suspended after Red Cross convoys sent to evacuate them were prevented from moving through the town, the International Committee of the Red Cross office here said on Friday [22 October].

About 150 prisoners were to have been taken out on Thursday, already a day later than originally scheduled.

Negotiations to find a solution are supposed to take place in the Croatian capital Zagreb on Saturday, a Red Cross spokesman said.

The first phase of the Croat-Moslem swap in Bosnia-Herzegovina on Tuesday saw 1,081 prisoners freed.

In Zagreb, a spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said a convoy taking 75 tonnes of food and medicine to the Moslem enclave of Maglaj had been stopped 10 kilometres (six miles) short of its destination in Croat-held territory.

UNHCR official Alemka Lisinski said demonstrators and members of the Croat HVO militia had stopped the trucks at Ozimica. The convoy left Zagreb on Thursday and when just 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Maglaj was halted by Serb forces at Teslic and forced to spend the night there, Lisinski said.

UN Protection Force spokesman Bill Aikman reported here that the British military contingent at Gornji Vakuf in central Bosnia had to evacuate personnel from their base when it got caught in crossfire on Thursday.

Croat forces opened up with artillery against Bosnian army lines, and tanks and infantry joined in a six-hour battle. The British evacuated 68 people, including civilian staff, unarmed UN observers and UNHCR workers, though the British soldiers stayed put, Aikman said.

He added that the fighting had made no major changes to the front line.

Delic, Briquemont Discuss Prisoner Release

AU2510174593 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Rasim Delic, commander of the General Staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army Supreme Command, held talks today in Sarajevo with General Francis Briquemont, commander of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] for Bosnia-Herzegovina. The two commanders discussed several significant issues of importance for the preservation of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as problems that had to be solved immediately and are connected with the evacuation of the wounded and creating better living conditions for the population in the

coming winter period. This has been stated by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army Press Center.

Commander Delic asked General Briquemont to provide for the unhindered passage of convoys with humanitarian aid for the people of the Bihac region, without any conditions by Fikret Abdic. When it comes to the release of prisoners, the General Staff of the Supreme Command gave its full support to the efforts of the International Commission of the Red Cross [ICRC] with the intention of completing this operation as soon as possible. However, it is impermissible that the representatives of the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] and the Serbian aggressor claim not to know about the fate of some 2,000 people of whom it is known, without any doubt, that they are in prisons under their control.

The HVO has also been setting conditions for the evacuation of the wounded from Medjugorje, where two Bosnia-Herzegovina Army helicopters have been waiting for two days to take off for Zenica. Also, the latest crimes by the HVO at Kakanj and Vares in the village of Stupski Dol, where there is no word of the fate of 250 civilians, indicate that the HVO representatives do not want peace. Their behavior toward the civilians is not only in violation of all the norms of human behavior, but is deliberately creating a situation that is complicating, to an extreme, the already complex situation in central Bosnia, Commander Delic stressed.

The talks also touched on the evacuation of the wounded from Tuzla, and the measures that need to be undertaken for a safer passage of the humanitarian convoys on the territory of the entire Republic, says the statement by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army Press Center.

One Dane Killed, Nine Wounded as UN Convoys Hit

LD2510150193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1412 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, October 25 (TANJUG) - A Dane was killed and nine U.N. personnel were wounded on Monday [25 October] when U.N. humanitarian convoys drove into a firefight between Croat and Moslem troops south of Novi Travnik in central Bosnia.

Fierce clashes between local Croats and supporters of hardline Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic have been going on in central Bosnia over the past few days. Bosnian Serbs and Croats last week signed a ceasefire agreement with moderate Moslem leader Fikret Abdic, the president of the recently proclaimed Moslem autonomous province of western Bosnia.

Moslems have been repeatedly attacking relief aid convoys which are now travelling exclusively through the territory controlled by Bosnian Serbs with aid for entire Bosnia-Herzegovina.

UNHCR Ogata Condemns Attack on UN Convoy

AU2510190193 Paris AFP in English 1836 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Oct 25 (AFP)—A Danish civilian driver was killed and 11 other people injured Monday [25 October] in a mortar attack on a UN convoy in central Bosnia, while Bosnian Croat forces blocked UN troops from investigating allegations of a massacre elsewhere.

Meanwhile UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, visiting London, said he was thinking of calling a new London peace conference on former Yugoslavia like the one held in August 1992.

"We believe that this idea may help us to find a solution to the problem of ex-Yugoslavia," he said, adding that the conference would need "very keen preparation" and the approval of all the protagonists.

European Community mediator Lord Owen, visiting Athens on Monday, said an agreement on Bosnia was urgently needed to avoid the "nightmare of cold and war," but he was not optimistic in the short term.

Speaking in Geneva, UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] Sadoko Ogata condemned the attack on the UN convoy.

"With this latest tragic death, 10 dedicated relief workers have given their lives while on UNHCR humanitarian missions in former Yugoslavia. That is 10 deaths too many," she said.

Another Dane, two Dutch UN peacekeepers and eight others were slightly wounded in the attack, said a spokesman for the British battalion of UN troops based at Vitez.

The convoy was caught in a violent exchange of mortar fire between Bosnian Croat forces (HVO) [Croatian Defense Council] and Moslem-majority Bosnian government troops near Novi Travnik, an HVO checkpoint on the battlefront between the two sides.

The shelling, which was still raging at 5:00 p.m. (1600 GMT), led to the closure of the "Diamond Route," the main road linking southern and central Bosnia along which the convoy had been travelling. [passage omitted]

Izetbegovic and the Moslem-dominated Bosnian Government have become increasingly isolated in their rejection of a peace plan for Bosnia and their battle against Croat and Serb enemies.

On the ground Scandanavian UN peacekeepers were barred from entering Stupni Do, just south of Vares to investigate reports of a massacre, the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Bill Aiken [as received] said Monday.

However, UN troops from the Nordic battalion had confirmed the village was on fire, he said.

Radio Sarajevo reported Sunday that the village, a Moslem enclave in the Croat pocket of Vares, 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of Sarajevo, had been attacked and torched by Bosnian Croats on Saturday, who had killed some of the 250 inhabitants.

Aiken said 223 Moslems were being held by the Croats in a Vares school, outside which UN forces had taken up position.

Bosnian Croat demonstrators also thwarted an attempt to evacuate Moslem wounded from Mostar, who had been transported in armoured cars to Medjugorje, a territory under HVO control, where two helicopters were waiting to transfer them to hospital in Zenica, in central Bosnia.

In Belgrade the daily POLITIKA reported that a first border passage between the Moslem pocket of Bihac in western Bosnia and the self-styled Serbian republic of Bosnia had opened at the weekend.

Serb parliament's speaker Momcilo Krajisnik told the paper that several other Moslem-majority regions wanted to negotiate similar arrangements with the Serbs. Bihac was declared autonomous in September by its leader Fikret Abdic, who last week signed peace pacts with Bosnian Croat and Serb leaders.

Medical Headquarters Reports Deaths in Last 24 Hours

AU2510192193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Between 1100 yesterday and 1100 today, 8 people were killed and 33 injured on the territory of Gracanica, Tesanj, Banovici, Teocak, Bihac, and Sarajevo.

In Sarajevo 3 people died and 23 were injured, the republican medical headquarters reports. Beside Sarajevo hospitals, medication, sanitary materiel, sources of energy, and food are most desperately needed in Tesanj hospital.

The residents on the left bank of Mostar have not received even the minimal quantities of food for weeks. Due to a realistic threat of starvation, immediate help of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian organizations was requested.

Serbs, Italians Reportedly Forcibly Mobilized

LD2610130393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1103 GMT 26 Oct 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 26 (TANJUG)—The Croatian authorities are conducting a mass and forceful mobilization in the Istrian Peninsula and the first to be called in are the local Italians and Serbs, Belgrade daily POLITIKA EKSPRES said on Tuesday [26 October].

"The Croatian authorities are using all means to intimidate the advocates of the idea on the regionalization of Istria and the most affected by this policy are the Serbs and Italians," EKSPRES POLITIKA said.

Serbs from Istria, who fled before the Croatian authorities' persecution and found refuge in the Bosnian Serb republic (RS), claim that the Croatian authorities are immediately sending the mobilized Serbs and Italians into combat.

"The representatives of the Italians in Istria also lodged official protests with the Croatian authorities," the paper said.

Belgrade daily POLITIKA said on Tuesday that the Croatian authorities in the Adriatic city of Rijeka are trying verbal offences in military courts. Thus, the Rijeka military court sentenced Rado Mijuskovic (36), who was born in Niksic (Montenegro) but is a resident of Rijeka, to a year in prison and banned him for life from the Republic of Croatia because he was singing "Oj Vojvodo Sindjelicu" (a Serbian nationalist song) in a restaurant.

Istria, Croatia's northern peninsula has some 250,000 inhabitants, including ethnic Italians—although about 300,000 were expelled to Italy after World War Two—and is one of the most developed regions in Croatia. Each year, the Zagreb regime seizes a lion's share of the earnings from this major tourist centre.

The population of Istria is opposing Zagreb's attempts to revive the Ustashi spirit—the Croatian form of fascism during World War Two.

The Istrians are increasingly demanding regionalization and greater independence and the representatives of the biggest regional party, the Istrian Democratic Council (IDS), recently announced a referendum on Istria's autonomy.

Granic Criticizes Silajdzic Letter

LD2510211293 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent a reply today to Haris Silajdzic, foreign minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The message says:

I received your letter of 23 October 1993 with profound astonishment. You described the meeting between Mate Boban and Fikret Abdic in Zagreb on 21 October as an instance of meddling in the internal affairs of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which, in turn, would be conflict with the responsibilities stemming from the mutual recognition of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, that is, from the joint Croat-Muslim declaration of 14 September 1993.

Categorically rejecting this assessment, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Republic of Croatia proposed and signed the declaration in good faith and with the aim of contributing yet again to ending the suffering in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina and to the establishment of the long-desired peace.

As far as Boban and Abdic's joint statement is concerned, we cannot but support the expressed resolve to do everything possible to end the conflict in the union of republics [of Bosnia-Herzegovina]. Likewise, I believe that we must both extend support to appeals to all sides to strictly abide by all international laws governing humanitarian issues and warfare, and to allow complete freedom of movement.

I must point out here that significant results have been scored so far owing to Croatia's resolve to have the Geneva declaration fully implemented. At least 40 convoys have reached their destinations unhampered, including the large convoy for central Bosnia from Split—although not the agreed section with the fuel for the hospital in Nova Bila. Living conditions in internment camps have improved, and access to the international Red Cross has been facilitated. Some camps, as the one in Dretelj, have been permanently closed.

An exchange of prisoners has also been initiated.

The latest UN Protection Force report attests to the fact that the Croatian Defense Council is complying much more consistently with the cease-fire agreement.

In view of the increasingly frequent contacts between the representatives of all three constituent nations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I believe that the time has come for us to make a joint assessment of all that has been accomplished so far in the implementation of the Geneva declaration and to agree on what remains to be done regarding the application of an absolute cease-fire and the exchange of prisoners, so that these issues should no longer unnecessarily strain our current relations and adversely affect their development in the future. In this respect, I would certainly welcome the opportunity to meet you in the nearest future.

Note to Slovenia on Refugee Accomodation Issue

LD2510202893 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a note to the Slovene Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in

reply to the Slovene ministry's protest note regarding the use of holiday homes in Istria, owned by Slovene companies, to accommodate refugees from central Bosnia.

The note recalls that the Republic of Croatia is currently looking after 526,000 refugees and displaced persons and that all available accommodation has been used. At the same time no new organized refugee groups have been sent to the Republic of Slovenia. Moreover, all refugees who had been given temporary accommodation in Slovenia have been received back to Croatia, the note says.

The note also says that, as set out in Article Two of the Croatian government's decree of 26 June last year, which prohibits the use and takeover of property owned by certain legal owners on the territory of Croatia, the Republic of Croatia has the right to use and take over holiday homes, hotels, and other tourist accommodation facilities whose owners are based in Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Macedonia in order to provide accommodation for refugees and displaced persons.

Prior to the last tourist season, the Republic of Croatia took all measures to provide alternative accommodation for the refugees who were accommodated in Slovene holiday homes, in order to make it possible for the owners to use their holiday homes during the season.

However, a new wave of refugees from central Bosnia, who also need to be looked after in Croatia or in other neighboring countries, is now arriving in Croatia. Croatia is trying to shoulder by itself the burden of providing accommodation for refugees and displaced persons and to avoid having to send them to third countries. While these attempts are being made, the right of ownership by individuals of companies from Slovenia has been and will be respected, although the issue is not regulated by a bilateral agreement, the note says.

Recalling a verbal agreement between the Croatian and Slovene government representatives which allows the use of Slovene holiday homes for refugee accommodation with the owner's agreement, and also recalling certain points of procedural oversight regarding the use of the holiday homes, the Croatian Foreign Ministry believes that this should not be the reason for stopping negotiations which are of national interest for both countries. It also says that a meeting will take place on Wednesday 27 October between Adalbert Rebic, the head of the Croatian government's office for refugees and displaced persons, and representatives of the Slovene government and owners of the holiday homes, where they will try to resolve these problems.

The Republic of Croatia will strictly adhere to all agreements and internationally accepted guarantees regarding care for refugees and displaced persons, but understanding and cooperation is also expected from the Republic of Slovenia regarding this problem, the note sent today by the Croatian Foreign Ministry says.

Republic Admitted to UNESCO General Assembly

LD2510210593 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The UNESCO General Assembly opened in Paris today with Belgrade's diplomatic defeat and Zagreb's political success. Croatia is taking part for the first time at a session of the highest and widest [as heard] body of the international organization for culture, science, and education. Moreover, it has been chosen as one of the deputy chairmen [as heard] of this session of the general assembly, at which 17 countries are taking part for the first time. Among them are Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Macedonia. [passage omitted]

Serbia

Nine Electoral Areas To Vote for 250 MPs

LD2510173893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0858 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Oct (TANJUG)—In upcoming elections to be held on 19 December, Serbia is to be divided into nine electoral areas in proportion to the size of the electorate. These electoral areas are: Belgrade, Zrenjanin, Kragujevac, Leskovac, Nis, Novi Sad, Pristina, Smederevo, and Uzice.

Most deputies will be elected in the Belgrade electoral area—46 of them. Thirty-two will be elected in the Novi Sad electoral area and 29 in the Kragujevac electoral area.

On the territory of the Leskovac electoral area, citizens will elect 25 deputies to the republican parliament, while the electoral areas of Nis, Zrenjanin, Pristina, and Uzice will have 24 deputies each. The least number of deputies—22—will be elected in the Smederevo electoral area.

The overall number of deputies to the republic assembly is 250.

Montenegro

Lekic Discusses Relations With Albania, Serbia

AU2610060793 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Oct 93 p 10

[Interview with Montenegrin Foreign Minister Miodrag Lekic by Zdenko Acin, place and date not given: "We Are Not for Parting"]

[Text] [Acin] There are rumors that the Berisha-Bulatovic dialogue took place under the watchful eye of [Serbian President] Slobodan Milosevic. Was Milosevic, by any chance, the initiator of that meeting?

[Lekic] The initiative originally came from Montenegro. However, since President Bulatovic is very strict about coordination, he must have informed and consulted President Milosevic. President Milosevic must have known about the agenda of those Albanian-Montenegrin talks. But no one on the side played a crucial role in the realization of that visit of ours to Albania.

[Acin] It would certainly be interesting to hear the way in which talks were held with President Berisha on the problem of Kosovo.

[Lekic] President Berisha was committed to the fundamental principle of the inviolability of borders. Therefore, there was no mention of any ambition to create the so-called greater Albania. He supported a realistic autonomy according to international principles, which, as a general principle, is not such a horrible thing. Anyway, they stressed their specific situation—they border with three countries: Montenegro, Serbia, and Macedonia, in which Albanians also live. Still, there was no sign of any radicalism, any aggression, or territorial pretensions. Of course, I am only speaking of our political discussions.

[Acin] How come you have the reputation of being a total Montenegrin?

[Lekic] I have had that reputation ever since that ceremony when Cetinje was proclaimed the capital of Montenegro. Quoting a poet, I then said: "When the water becomes troubled, head for the spring!" Immediately the question arose as to the meaning of that, and straight after that I received the first slaps. And when I mentioned the diplomatic tradition of Cetinje and the embassies that used to be seated there, I was immediately criticized for preparing Cetinje to become a capital city.

[Acin] It is interesting that you have often been called the "naughty boy of the Montenegrin diplomatic corps," since you sometimes give controversial statements, statements that create confusion. One such case was your statement regarding the acceptance of observers along our borders, and the Vance-Owen plan. Even the Montenegrin officials were caught by surprise by such statements and wondered: "On whose behalf is Minister Lekic speaking?"

[Lekic] There is hardly a public stance in today's political life toward which we do not have a positive or negative attitude. That is a part of political life. I follow the line that one simply has to conduct policy in cooperation with the international community that, by definition, absolutely does not imply servility or inferiority toward it. If we go back to the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs [SIP], then we will see that we are inclined to go from extreme to extreme. At the beginning of the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the internationalist variant was dominant, and it took no account of state or national interests, but just did as the international community wanted it to. Later there was a switch to another extreme: To ignore the international factor, which is unwise and irrational, and force instead patriotism, the excess of patriotism, etc., as the basic criterion.

[Acin] What are your feelings about that?

[Lekic] I am for both, for a natural context of patriotism and national feelings, and for respect for the international circumstances. It has to be understood that the Security Council resolutions are of a binding nature. So if we start from the premise—and we do in Montenegro—that we have a reality that does not deserve sanctions, then in that context we are not bothered to have observers to see all that. That is better than to have all kinds of propaganda spread about us by those who are not inclined toward us. So if we say that we are not helping anybody in Bosnia-Herzegovina other than with humanitarian aid, and someone offers to check that, then there is no need to put up any resistance. Should we be in a hurry to oppose nothing more or less than the

Security Council resolutions, even at the price of distancing ourselves further from the lifting of the sanctions and entering self-isolation?

All in all, everything I supported regarding the observers and the CSCE mission was later adopted by the Montenegrin Government as an official attitude. Therefore, I am no "naughty boy," but someone who feels great responsibility all the time, that is, someone motivated by the efforts to reintegrate us into the community in which we will achieve our national interests. In that sense nobody can stop me from thinking with my own head. I am ready to take responsibility and bear the consequences of any possible errors I might have made. I still think I have been on the right track.

[Acin] On the one hand you are under attack for being too great a Montenegrin, while on the other hand, you are under attack for not giving any special flavor to Montenegrin diplomacy. But everyone agrees that you are a man of diplomatic manners....

[Lekic] This difference in the perception of my work stems from the division of our national entity, from that famous Serbian feature that has become a part of the traditional horizon in Montenegro, and comes down to the dilemma: "With Russia or without it!" or "With Serbia or without it!"

I do not know how autochthonous a nation we are, but I know that we have autochthonous radicalism in our character. Just as there are radical variants of Montenegrinhood—whose aim is to distance Montenegro from Serbia completely—there is also a radicalism, just as unacceptable, to reduce Montenegro to a Serbian region. That is just as senseless an aspiration. So if one is inclined to compromise, to strive for a middle solution, then it is logical that he is attacked by both sides. Therefore some people see in my work someone who is trying to get Montenegro to secede from Serbia, which is by the way a well-known but totally imprecise formulation since Montenegro has never been a part of Serbia to secede from it now. Montenegro could possible only secede from Yugoslavia, but I hope that it will not come to that. On the other hand, I get attacked by some because my policy is not 100 percent pro-Montenegrin, that it is a compromise—in the negative sense of the word. These attacks from both sides are probably a good indicator that I am on a right road. In that context the question Will Montenegro secede from Serbia is in poor taste, just as the answer would be. I have no right to give the answer to that question. It is after all up to the Montenegrin people who are mature and can choose. They have expressed their will once and, if need be, they will do so again. If the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is really a federation, a democratic and peaceloving country, then it will be our common state. However, if it does not have these essential values, then a certain temptation is possible. Montenegro is an old country, the Montenegrin people are a political people, and they will have to choose. Our duty is to create a democratic climate and to respect the will of the majority. So far, however, the majority has been respecting the will of the minority.

Vojvodina

Hungarian Party To Take Part in Elections

LD2610112393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0946 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Novi Sad, 26 Oct (TANJUG)—Andras Agoston, chairman of the Democratic Union of Vojvodina Hungarians [DZVM], has said that the party will definitely take part in the elections, as it has always done before, since that is the only way to achieve its objectives.

He said in the Novi Sad television program "Nasi Dani" last night that these objectives remain unchanged: A three-tier [trostepena] autonomy for the Vojvodina Hungarians, as the only guarantee of their survival in the area and the preservation of their identity. [passage omitted]